

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1942.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

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BUCCINUM	0	18	0
BULIMUS	5	12	0
BULLIA	0	5	6
CARDITA	0	11	6
CARDIUM	1	8	0
CASSIDARIA	0	1	6
CASSIS	0	15	6
CHAMA	0	11	6
CHITON	2	2	0
CHITONELLUS	0	1	6
CONUS	3	0	0
CORBULA	0	6	6
CRASSATELLA	0	4	0
CYPREA	1	14	0
CYPRICARDIA	0	3	0
DELPHINULUS	0	6	6
DOLIUM	0	10	6
EBURNA	0	1	6
FASCIOLAE	0	9	0
FICULA	0	1	6
FISSURELLA	1	0	6
FUSUS	1	6	6
GLAUCONOME	0	1	6
HALIOTIS	1	1	0
HARPA	0	5	6
HEMIPLECTEN	0	1	6
ISOCANDIA	0	1	6
LUCINA	0	14	0
MANGELIA	0	10	6
MESALIA	0	1	6
EGLISIA	0	1	6
MITRA	2	10	0
MONOCEROS	0	5	6
MUREX	2	5	6
MYADORA	0	1	6
OLIVA	1	13	0
OMISCA	0	1	6
PALUDOMUS	0	4	0
PARTULA	0	5	6
PECTUNCULUS	0	11	6
PHORUS	0	4	0
PLEUROTOMA	2	10	6
PTEROCELA	0	8	0
PURPURA	0	17	0
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RICINULA	0	8	0
ROSTELLARIA	0	4	6
STROMBUS	1	4	6
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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1854.

## REVIEWS.

*Of the Plurality of Worlds. An Essay.*

John W. Parker and Son.

In one of Addison's delightful papers in the 'Guardian,' he describes a visit to the ladies of the Lizard family, when he was mightily pleased to find them all busy in preserving fruits, with the Sparkler, the fairest and liveliest of the daughters, in the midst of them, reading Fontenelle's 'Plurality of Worlds.' "It was very entertaining to me," he says, "to see them dividing their speculations between jellies and stars, and making a sudden transition from the sun to an apricot, or from the Copernican system to the figure of a cheesecake." Nothing can better describe the character of the French philosopher's most agreeable treatise than the combination of ideas brought together in this truly Addisonian passage. The wonders of astronomy, brought to light in the Newtonian age, are communicated by a philosopher to an elegant French marchioness, in the retirement of her country seat, and seclusion from the Parisian society which she was well fitted to adorn; and in none of his many lively works does the brilliancy and charm of Fontenelle's didactic style more conspicuously appear. The discoveries of the astronomers soon found their way into popular literature, where, however, the speculations of scientific men were not always kept distinct from the facts of science. The 'Spectator' playfully reproached the fox-hunters and rural squires of that day for being ignorant that they had been living all their life upon a planet; and the poets talked of "other planets circling other suns," and "what varied being peoples every star." In short, it seemed quite natural to think that as our inhabited globe goes round the sun, so the fixed stars, which were said to be suns like ours, should also have inhabited planets revolving round them. Astronomers did not venture to assert what they knew could be sustained by no scientific proofs, but they did not interfere with popular beliefs, which appeared to be harmless, and which even served the good purpose of increasing the interest felt in their pursuits, and investing them, in the eyes of the vulgar, with fresh dignity and importance. So far as science was concerned, the speculations about the inhabitants of other worlds were considered as no more than philosophical romances. When contemplated by devout but ignorant minds, they increased the scope for superstitious wonder, if they did not extend the ground for rational worship. But they have also been made the basis of an objection to natural religion, and still more to the system of Christianity as revealed in the Scriptures. "When I consider the heavens, the work of thy hands, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" These striking words of the Psalmist, while used, on the one hand, as the utterance of reverential and grateful piety, may also express a sense of incredulous amazement, as if the very magnitude of creation rendered it unlikely that any special Divine regard could be bestowed on this world of ours. This objection or difficulty is enhanced by the discoveries of astronomical science:—

"So many planets about our sun: so many suns, each perhaps with its family of planets: and

then, all these suns making but one group: and other groups coming into view, one after another, in seemingly endless succession: and all these planets being of the nature of our earth, as all these stars are of the nature of our sun:—all, which presents to us a spectacle of a world—of a countless host of worlds—of which, when we regard them as thus arranged in planetary systems, and as having, according to all probability, years and seasons, days and nights, as we have, we cannot but accept it as at least a likely suggestion, that they have also inhabitants;—intelligent beings who can reckon these days and years; who subsist on the fruits which the seasons bring forth, and have their daily and yearly occupations, according to their faculties. When we take, as our scheme of the universe, such a scheme as this, we may well be overwhelmed with the number of provinces, besides that in which man dwells, which the empire of the Lord of all includes; and, recurring to the words of the Psalmist, we may say with a profundiety of meaning immeasurably augmented—'Lord, what is man!'"

It was to meet the objection to religion, suggested by such a view of the heavens and the stars, the earth and the universe, that Chalmers wrote his 'Astronomical Discourses,' one of the most philosophical as well as eloquent works of modern times, with a clear and concise account of the arguments of which the present 'Essay on the Plurality of Worlds' commences. The question is thus stated:—

"Chalmers supposes an objector to take his stand upon the multiplicity of worlds, assumed or granted as true; and to argue that, since there are so many worlds beside this, all alike claiming the care, the government, the goodness, the interposition, of the Creator, it is in the highest degree extravagant and absurd, to suppose that he has done, for this world, that which Religion, both Natural and Revealed, represents him as having done, and as doing. When we are told that God has provided, and is constantly providing, for the life, the welfare, the comfort of all the living things which people this earth, we can, by an effort of thought and reflection, bring ourselves to believe that it is so. When we are further told that He has given a moral law to man, the intelligent inhabitant of the earth, and governs him by a moral government, we are able, or at least the great bulk of thoughtful men, on due consideration of all the bearings of the case, are able, to accept the conviction, that this also is so. When we are still further asked to believe that the imperfect sway of this moral law over man has required to be remedied by a special interposition of the Governor of the world, or by a series of special interpositions, to make the Law clear, and to remedy the effects of man's transgression of it; this doctrine also,—according to the old and unscientific view, which represents the human race as, in an especial manner, the summit and crown of God's material workmanship, the end of the rest of creation, and the selected theatre of God's dealings with transgression and with obedience,—we can conceive, and, as religious persons hold, we can find ample and satisfactory evidence to believe. But if this world be merely one of innumerable worlds, all, like it, the workmanship of God; all, the seats of life, like it; others, like it, occupied by intelligent creatures, capable of will, of law, of obedience, of disobedience, as man is; to hold that this world has been the scene of God's care and kindness, and still more, of his special interpositions, communications, and personal dealings with its individual inhabitants, in the way which Religion teaches, is, the objector is conceived to maintain, extravagant and incredible. It is to select one of the millions of globes which are scattered through the vast domain of space, and to suppose that one to be treated in a special and exceptional manner, without any reason for the assumption of such a peculiarity, except that this globe happens to be the habitation of us, who make this assumption. If

Religion require us to assume, that one particular corner of the Universe has been thus singled out, and made an exception to the general rules by which all other parts of the Universe are governed; she makes, it may be said, a demand upon our credulity which cannot fail to be rejected by those who are in the habit of contemplating and admiring those general laws. Can the Earth be thus the centre of the moral and religious universe, when it has been shown to have no claim to be the centre of the physical universe? Is it not as absurd to maintain this, as it would be to hold, at the present day, the old Ptolemaic hypothesis, which places the Earth in the centre of the heavenly motions, instead of the newer Copernican doctrine, which teaches that the Earth revolves round the Sun? Is not Religion disproved, by the necessity under which she lies, of making such an assumption as this?"

The various arguments and illustrations employed in the 'Astronomical Discourses' are examined, among which there is one that will satisfy all minds that are imbued with sound philosophical spirit. The objection is put by Chalmers in its strongest form, as urged against the peculiar scheme of Christianity:—

"How is it consistent with the dignity, the impartiality, the comprehensiveness, the analogy of God's proceedings, that He should make so special and pre-eminent a provision for the salvation of the inhabitants of this Earth, when there are such myriads of other worlds, all of which may require the like provision, and all of which have an equal claim to their Creator's care?"

"The answer which Chalmers gives to this objection, is one drawn, in the first instance, from our ignorance. He urges that, when the objector asserts that other worlds may have the like need with our own, of a special provision for the rescue of their inhabitants from the consequences of the transgression of God's laws, he is really making an assertion without the slightest foundation. Not only does science not give us any information on such subjects, but the whole spirit of the scientific procedure, which has led to the knowledge which we possess, concerning other planets and other systems, is utterly opposed to our making such assumptions, respecting other worlds, as the objection involves. Modern science, in proportion as she is confident when she has good grounds of proof, however strange may be the doctrines proved, is not only diffident, but is utterly silent, and abstains even from guessing, when she has no grounds of proof. Chalmers takes Newton's reasoning, as offering a special example of this mixed temper—of courage in following the evidence, and temperance in not advancing when there is no evidence. He puts, in opposition to this, the example of the true philosophical temper,—a supposed rash theorist, who should make unwarranted suppositions and assumptions, concerning matters to which our scientific evidence does not reach;—the animals and plants, for instance, which are to be found in the planet Jupiter. No one, he says, would more utterly reject and condemn such speculations than Newton, who first rightly explained the motion of Jupiter and of his attendant satellites, about which science can pronounce her truths. And thus, nothing can be more opposite to the real spirit of modern science, and astronomy in particular, than arguments, such as we have stated, professing to be drawn from science and from astronomy. Since we know nothing about the inhabitants of Jupiter, true science requires that we say and suppose nothing about them; still more requires that we should not, on the ground of assumptions made with regard to them, and other supposed groups of living creatures, reject a belief, founded on direct and positive proofs, such as is the belief in the truths of Natural and of Revealed Religion."

By this unanswerable appeal to the first principles of the philosophy of Bacon and Newton, the whole subject is withdrawn from

the field of real scientific discussion, and is shown to belong only to the region of vague speculation. The fact remains, indeed, of the multiplicity of worlds, and the illimitable vastness of material creation revealed by astronomy, but this is not worthy of being taken into account in considering questions relating to intellectual and moral being.

Behold this midnight splendour, worlds on worlds;  
Ten thousand add and twice ten thousand more;  
They weigh the whole: one soul outweights them all,  
And calls the seeming vast magnificence  
Of unintelligent creation, poor.

Nor would any difficulty exist, even if it were admitted that every planet that revolves round every star teemed with life, in myriads of forms unknown to our earth. Our wonder would be increased at the multiplicity of objects of the Divine creation and the Divine care, but no difference would be made in our conception of the nature or the operations of perfections and attributes that are infinite. Dr. Chalmers has some very striking reflections on this point in his discourse on the discoveries of the microscope, to the effect that the enlargement of our acquaintance with the extent of living sentient being, through scientific discovery, while it expands our ideas of the wisdom, power, and goodness of the Creator, ought to have no effect in disturbing any of the views or convictions of religion. Neither would any such effect be produced by the knowledge of new spheres of animated being, supposing astronomy to afford proofs, instead of merely suggesting speculations on this subject. No change in our conceptions of the nature or character of the Divine ruler, except a feeling of enlarged and deepened reverence and worship, can result from our supposing the existence of animal and even of intelligent life on other planets, and on innumerable systems of planets and worlds. It is only when ideas of moral government are admitted into the speculations that they give rise to difficulty. Dr. Chalmers, in a masterly style, reasons on this supposition, and though he maintains that the existence of moral and spiritual denizens of other planets is an unauthorized assumption, he shows how, admitting such to be the case, the peculiar doctrines of revealed truth, and the duties and responsibilities of the Christian religion, remain untouched. It is at this point that the author of the work before us interposes, and although anonymous, he speaks with the authority of one equally familiar with scientific facts and versed in ethical and theological discussions. According to our author, Dr. Chalmers makes far too great a concession to popular prejudice in supposing that the inhabitants, say of Jupiter, may be under exactly similar moral and spiritual government to the people of this earth. Chalmers speaks well of the *rashness* of making assumptions on such subjects without proof, as opposed to the principles of sound Baconian philosophy, and as contrary to the spirit which Newton inculcated in his dictum, *hypotheses non fingo*. Yet Chalmers leaves it to be supposed that though Astronomy can supply no proofs of intelligent inhabitants of other parts of the universe, she yet does offer strong analogies in favour of such an opinion. The author of the essay on the 'Plurality of Worlds' affirms that such analogies in favour of "other worlds" are, to say the least of them, greatly exaggerated. And by taking into account what astronomy really teaches us, and what we learn also from other sciences, he proposes to reduce these "analogies" to their true value.

We cannot endeavour to give any connected

outline of the arguments, astronomical, geological, and moral, with which the author most ably and ingeniously maintains his position, that we have no ground, even of analogy, for asserting the heavenly bodies to be tenanted by beings equal or superior to the human race. Whether they are so tenanted or not, the analogies of science give no sanction to the belief. That there are other orders of higher intelligences, spiritual or angelic, Revelation teaches and Reason admits; but to materialize these beings, and localize them in particular stars, is a species of romancing fitter for poets than philosophers.

"Thus Fontenelle, in his 'Dialogues on the Plurality of Worlds,' makes the inhabitants of Venus possess, in an exaggerated degree, the characteristics of the men of the warm climates of the earth. They are like the Moors of Grenada, or rather the Moors of Grenada would be to them as cold as Greenlanders and Laplanders to us. And the inhabitants of Mercury have so much vivacity that they would pass with us for insane. 'Enfin c'est dans Mercure que sont les Petites-Maisons de l'Univers.' The inhabitants of Jupiter and Saturn are immensely slow and phlegmatic. And though he and other writers attempt to make these inhabitants of remote regions in some respects superior to man, telling us that instead of only five senses, they may have six or ten, or a hundred; still, these are mere words, which convey no meaning; and the great astronomer Bessel had reason to say, that those who imagined inhabitants in the Moon and Planets, supposed them, in spite of all their protestations, as like to men as one egg to another."

In truth, every attempt to conceive and describe the inhabitants of other worlds must be composed of elements drawn from our own human life and experience.

"A mere animal life, with no interest but animal enjoyment, we may conceive as assuming forms different from those which appear in existing animal races; though even here there are, as we shall hereafter attempt to show, certain general principles which run through all animal life. But when, in addition to mere animal impulses, we assume or suppose moral and intellectual interests, we conceive them as the moral and intellectual interests of man. Truth and falsehood, right and wrong, law and transgression, happiness and misery, reward and punishment, are the necessary elements of all that can interest us—all of that we can call *government*. To transfer these to Jupiter or to Sirius, is merely to imagine those bodies to be a sort of island of Formosa, or New Atlantis, or Utopia, or Platonic Polity, or something of the like kind. The boldest and most resolute attempts to devise some life different from human life, have not produced anything more different, than romance-writers and political theorists have devised as a form of human life. And this being so, there is no more wisdom or philosophy in believing such assemblages of beings to exist in Jupiter or Sirius, without evidence, than in believing them to exist in the island of Formosa, with the like absence of evidence."

After examining in detail the various facts that have been adduced by the advocates of a 'Plurality of Worlds,' in the sense of their being inhabited by intelligent and moral beings, the following summary is given of the constitution and peculiarities, as to physical circumstances, of the planets which are most within reach of scientific observation:—

"The planets exterior to Mars, Jupiter and Saturn especially, as the best known of them, appear, by the best judgment which we can form, to be spheres of water, and of aqueous vapour, combined, it may be, with atmospheric air, in which their cloudy belts float over their deep oceans. Mars seems to have some portion at least of aqueous atmosphere; the earth, we know, has a considerable atmosphere of air, and of vapour but

the Moon, so near to her mistress, has none. On Venus and Mercury, we see nothing of a gaseous or aqueous atmosphere; and they, and Mars, do not differ much in their density from the Earth. Now does not this look as if the water and the vapour, which belong to the solar system, were driven off into the outer regions of its vast circuit; while the solid masses which are nearest to the focus of heat, are all approximately of the same nature? And if this be so, what is the peculiar physical condition which we are led to ascribe to the Earth? Plainly this: that she is situated just in that region of the system, where the existence of matter, both in a solid, a fluid, and a gaseous condition, is possible. Outside the Earth's orbit, or at least outside Mars and the small Planetoids, there is, in the planets, apparently, no solid matter; or rather, if there be, there is a vast preponderance of watery and vaporous matter. Inside the Earth's orbit, we see, in the planets, no traces of water or vapour, or gas; but solid matter, about the density of terrestrial matter. The Earth, alone, is placed at the border where the conditions of life are combined; ground to stand upon; air to breathe; water to nourish vegetables, and thus, animals; and solid matter to supply the materials for their more solid parts: and with this, a due supply of light and heat, a due energy of the force of weight. All these conditions are, in our conception, requisite for life: that all these conditions meet, elsewhere than in the neighbourhood of the Earth's orbit, we see strong reasons to disbelieve. The Earth, then, it would seem, is the abode of life, not because all the globes which revolve round the Sun may be assumed to be the abodes of life; but because the Earth is fitted to be so, by a curious and complex combination of properties and relations, which do not at all apply to the others. That the Earth is inhabited, is not a reason for believing that the other Planets are so, but for believing that they are not so.

"Can we see any physical reason, for the fact which appears to us so probable, that all the water and vapour of the system is gathered in its outward parts? It would seem that we can. Water and aqueous vapour are driven from the Sun to the outer parts of the solar system, or are allowed to be permanent there only, as they are driven off and retained at a distance by any other source of heat;—to use a homely illustration, as they are driven from wet objects placed near the kitchen fire: as they are driven from the hot sands of Egypt into the upper air: as they are driven from the tropics to the poles. In this latter case, and generally, in all cases, in which vapour is thus driven from a hotter region, when it comes into a colder, it may again be condensed in water, and fall in rain. So the cold of the air in the temperate zone condenses the aqueous vapours which flow from the tropics; and so, we have our clouds and our showers. And as there is this rainy region, indistinctly defined, between the torrid and the frigid zones on the earth; so is there a region of clouds and rain, of air and water, much more precisely defined, in the solar system, between the central torrid zone and the external frigid zone which surrounds the Sun at a greater distance.

"*The Earth's Orbit is the Temperate Zone of the Solar System.* In that Zone only is the play of Hot and Cold, of Moist and Dry, possible. The Torrid Zone of the Earth is not free from moisture; it has its rains, for it has its upper colder atmosphere. But how much hotter are Venus and Mercury than the Torrid Zone? There, no vapours can linger; they are expelled by the fierce solar energy; and there is no cool stratum to catch them and return them. If they were there, they must fly to the outer regions; to the cold abodes of Jupiter and Saturn, if on their way, the Earth did not with cold and airy finger stretch out afar, catch a few drops of their treasures, for the use of plant, and beast, and man. The solid stone only, and the metallic ore which can be fused and solidified with little loss of substance, can bear the continual force of the near solar fire, and be the material of permanent solid planets in that region. But the lava pavement of the Inner Planets bears no

superstructure of life; for all life would be scorched away along with water, its first element. On the Earth first, can this superstructure be raised; and there, through we know not what gradation of forms, the waters were made to bring forth abundantly things that had life; plants, and animals nourished by plants, and conspiring with them, to feed on their respective appointed elements, in the air which surrounded them. And so, nourished by the influences of air and water, plants and animals lived and died, and were entombed in the scourings of the land, which the descending streams carried to the bottom of the waters. And then, these beds of dead generations were raised into mountain ranges; perhaps by the yet unextinguished forces of subterraneous fires. And then a new creation of plants and animals succeeded; still living under the fostering influence of the united pair, Air and Water, which never ceased to brood over the World of Life, their Nurseling; and then, perhaps, a new change of the limits of land and water, and a new creation again: till at last, Man was placed upon the Earth; with far higher powers, and far different purposes, from any of the preceding tribes of creatures: and with this, for one of his offices;—that there might be an intelligent being to learn how wonderfully the scheme of creation had been carried on, and to admire, and to worship the Creator."

From geology an important train of speculation and argument is derived. When the question is stated in this way, that it seems irrational to suppose that so small a portion of the universe should be devoted to an order of being so high as man, the argument may be met by analogy from the history of our own planet. This earth existed perhaps for millions of ages before man appeared on its surface, and was tenanted only by inferior races of animal being for a period immeasurably longer than by its present human inhabitants.

"The analogy of nature, in this case at least, appears to be, that there should be inferior, as well as superior provinces, in the universe; and that the inferior may occupy an immensely larger portion of time than the superior; why not then of space? The intelligent part of creation is thrust into the compass of a few years, in the course of myriads of ages; why not then into the compass of a few miles, in the expanse of systems? The earth was brute and inert, compared with its present condition, dark and chaotic, so far as the light of reason and intelligence are concerned, for countless centuries before man was created. Why then may not other parts of creation be still in this brute and inert and chaotic state, while the earth is under the influence of a higher exercise of creative power? If the earth was, for ages, a turbid abyss of lava and of mud, why may not Mars or Saturn be so still? If the germs of life were, gradually, and at long intervals, inserted in the terrestrial slime, why may they not be just inserted, or not yet inserted, in Jupiter? Or why should we assume that the condition of those planets resembles ours, even so far as such suppositions imply? Why may they not, some or all of them, be barren masses of stone and metal, slag and scoria, dust and cinders? That some of them are composed of such materials, we have better reason to believe, than we have to believe anything else respecting their physical constitution, as we shall hereafter endeavour to show. If then, the earth be the sole inhabited spot in the work of creation, the oasis in the desert of our system, there is nothing in this contrary to the analogy of creation. But if, in some way which perhaps we cannot discover, the earth obtained, for accompaniments, mere chaotic and barren masses, as conditions of coming into its present state; as it may have required, for accompaniments, the brute and imperfect races of former animals, as conditions of coming into its present state, as the habitation of man; the analogy is against, and not in favour of, the belief that they too (the other masses, the planets, &c.) are habitations."

In the whole of the discussion of this geological argument, there is a striking resemblance to what has been advanced by Hugh Miller on the same subject. If the author of the essay is not indebted to Mr. Miller for the ideas which he has elaborately worked out, it is fortunate that his views are confirmed by the opinions of one so distinguished alike for scientific knowledge, philosophical spirit, and Christian principle. The idea is broached by Mr. Miller on several occasions, but especially in one of the chapters of his 'First Impressions of England and its People.' After stating the difficulty arising from the oppressive sense of human littleness which the truths of astronomy have the tendency to inspire, he shows how the ascertained facts of geology satisfactorily dispose of any infidel objection that may be founded thereon. As astronomy enlarges our prospect in regard to space, geology extends it with regard to time, and heretere is no ground in analogy for reasoning in support of other orders of being similar to man. He shows how analogy, pursued beyond its proper province, is sure to land the pursuer in error. Analogy, so sagacious a guide in its own legitimate field, is utterly blind and senseless in the precincts that lie beyond it; it is nicely correct in its generals, perversely erroneous in its particulars; and no sooner does it quit its proper office, the general, for the particular, than there start up around it a multitude of solid objections, sternly to challenge it, as a trespasser on grounds not its own. How infer, we may well ask the infidel—admitting, for the argument's sake, that all the planets come under the law of geologic revolution—how infer that they have all, or any of them, save our own earth, arrived at the stage of stability and ripeness essential to a fully developed creation, with a reasoning creature as its master-existence? At all events the resemblance between the state of this and of other planets is not such as Fontenelle in his amusing romance suggests, when he makes the assertor of the plurality of worlds, in his 'Dialogues,' describe the person who denies the opinion as like a citizen of Paris, who seeing from the towers of Notre Dame the town of St. Denis, denies that it is inhabited, because he cannot see the inhabitants. Fontenelle's argument, founded on the formula *pourquoi non?* is a figure of logic which may be used with equal force on both sides. The analogy of geology, we have seen, is unfavourable to the theory:—

"When Geology tells us that the earth, which has been the seat of human life for a few thousand years only, has been the seat of animal life for myriads, it may be, millions of years, she has a right to offer this, as an answer to any difficulty which Astronomy, or the readers of astronomical books, may suggest, derived from the considerations that the Earth, the seat of human life, is but one globe of a few thousand miles in diameter, among millions of other globes, at distances millions of times as great."

When analogy proves so weak in regard to the planets of our own solar system, the probability in favour of the inhabitants of more distant stars and worlds is vastly more shadowy. The author examines patiently, however, the speculations as to the inhabitants of these remote regions, and proves how utterly untenable is the position that they can be peopled by beings subject to any of the common laws of matter in our planet:—

"If gravity have not, upon any set of beings, the effect which it has upon us, such beings may live upon the surface of Saturn, though it be mere

vapour: but then, on that supposition, they may equally well live in the vast space between Saturn and Jupiter, without needing any planet for their mansion. If we are ready to suppose that there are, in the solar system, conscious beings, not subject to the ordinary laws of life, we may go on to imagine creatures constituted of vaporous elements, floating in the fiery haze of a nebula, or close to the body of a sun; and cloudy forms which soar as vapours in the regions of vapour. But such imaginations, besides being rather fitted for the employment of poets than of philosophers, will not, as we have said, find a population for the planets; since such forms may just as easily be conceived swimming round the sun in empty space, or darting from star to star, as confining themselves to the neighbourhood of any of the solid globes which revolve about the central sun."

The author has addressed himself, in his Essay, to the science and good sense of his readers, without appealing to the authority of great names, but it might be shown that Herschel, Humboldt, Bessel, and others of high scientific position, have the manliness to resist the current of popular credulity on this subject. The belief that other planets are the seats of habitation of living creatures, even of an extremely low order of being, has been held not in consequence of physical reasons, but in spite of physical reasons. We venture to say that no scientific man of any reputation will maintain the theory, without mixing up theological with physical arguments. And it is in regard to the theological and moral aspect of the question that we think the author of this Essay urges considerations which most believers in the truths of Christianity will deem unanswerable:—

"If the earth have been the scene of an action of Love and Self-Devotion for the incalculable benefit of the whole human race, in comparison with which the death of Socrates fades into a mere act of cheerful resignation to the common lot of humanity; and if this action, and its consequences to the whole race of man, in his temporal and eternal destiny, and in his history on earth before and after it, were the main object for which man was created, the cardinal point round which the capacities and the fortunes of the race were to turn; then indeed we see that the Earth has a pre-eminence in the scheme of creation, which may well reconcile us to regard all the material splendour which surrounds it, all the array of mere visible luminaries and masses which accompany it, as no unfitting appendages to such a drama. The elevation of millions of intellectual, moral, religious, spiritual creatures, to a destiny so prepared, consummated, and developed, is no unworthy occupation of all the capacities of space, time, and matter. And, so far as any one has yet shown, to regard this great scheme as other than the central point of the divine plan; to consider it as one part among other parts, similar, co-ordinate, or superior; involves those who so speculate, in difficulties, even with regard to the plan itself, which they strive in vain to reconcile; while the assumption of the subjects of such a plan, in other regions of the universe, is at variance with all which we, looking at the analogies of space and time, of earth and stars, of life in brutes and in man, have found reason to deem in any degree probable. And thus that conjecture of the Plurality of Worlds, to which a wide and careful examination of the physical constitution of the Universe supplied no confirmation, derives also little support from a contemplation of the Design which the Creator may be supposed to have had in the work of the Creation; when such Design is regarded in a comprehensive manner, and in all its bearings. Such a survey seems to speak rather in favour of the Unity of the World, than of a Plurality of Worlds."

That this view of the question will be generally received we do not expect, because the majority always give their assent rather to

what is plausible than to what is philosophical, and to what is wonderful rather than to what is true. To throw doubt on the plurality of worlds may also appear to interfere with popular beliefs as to other orders of intelligent and moral beings under the Divine Government. But let it be observed that the author does not meddle with doctrines professedly derived from revealed truth. The object of his argument is only to show that science supplies no *proofs* at all on the subject, and that its analogies are opposed to the idea of other worlds being, at present, the seats of inhabitants similar or superior to man. It is not from natural theology that we learn anything as to the existence of other orders of intelligent and moral being, or of the future high destiny of man. This Essay, with its other lessons, inculcates true philosophical humility, in showing how limited are the powers of human reason and the results of human research, and how much we are indebted to the Divine wisdom and goodness, for that more sure word of revelation, which is the foundation of the Christian's faith and hope.

*Campaigning in Kaffirland; or, Scenes and Adventures of the Kaffir War of 1851-2.*  
By Capt. W. R. King, 74th Highlanders.  
With Illustrations. Saunders and Otley.

ALTHOUGH attention is now turned to a war of greater magnitude and on a more important field, this record of scenes and adventures in the Kaffir campaigns will not the less be read with interest. It cost this country much treasure and many lives before the conflict was ended with an enemy at first too much despised, and maintaining a struggle with an energy and perseverance scarcely expected in such a people. Disclaiming any pretension to a detailed or connected history of the war, Captain King gives a series of spirited and well-written sketches of Kaffirland campaigning. "Written," he says, "during leisure hours, in a lonely fort, or by the camp-fire, after the fatigues of the day, and mainly embracing the movements of one division only—often of a single brigade or corps—they attempt merely to convey a general idea of the country, and of the scenes and passing events of the campaign." In this attempt the writer has admirably succeeded, as our readers may judge from a few extracts from his unpretending but intelligent and agreeable book. We first give the statement of the causes of the outbreak of the second Kaffir war; the first having been brought to a close by Sir Harry Smith at the commencement of January, 1848:—

"At the conclusion of that war it was found absolutely necessary, for the future safety and peace of the colony, to extend the frontier line of our possessions to the Great Kei River, including the large district named British Kaffraria, which, with the lately 'Ceded Territory,' were declared to be forfeited by the vanquished Kaffirs, as the penalty of their rebellion. In point of fact, however, they were left in possession of the country, each tribe, with their respective chiefs, being assigned to different districts, the whole under a system of government by local magistrates or commissioners, who were again subordinate to Colonel Mackinnon, the Commandant and Chief Commissioner at King William's Town. The condition on which they were allowed to retain occupation of these districts was that of declaring allegiance to the Crown, with which both Chiefs and people at once complied; and, in addition to this, and in accordance with their own laws, each

chief was made responsible for any cattle or other robberies, the spoils of which could be traced to his kraal, he having to pay the full value, and follow up the spoils as best he could. The result was, that as there could thus be no receivers, there were soon few thieves, and property became comparatively secure, order being further enforced and preserved by a body of 400 Kaffir police, regularly drilled and equipped. The blessings of order and an equitable administration of justice inspired a confidence which was gradually felt by the people to be far preferable to the arbitrary and capricious rule of their chiefs, supported as it was by the grossest superstitions and impostures; and, besides this, efforts were made to improve their moral condition, every encouragement being given to missionary exertions, and the opening of schools and places of worship, with abundant success.

"Admirable however as was Sir H. Smith's system, and also its working—for, as was remarked, nothing could be more promising than the state of the country up to the autumn of 1850—an element was at work, the importance of which had not been duly estimated, and to which may undoubtedly be traced the origin of the subsequent war. The chiefs found their power and influence melting daily before the advance of civilization, the settled habits of peace, and the irresistible superiority of a just and duly administered government. Naturally jealous of their hereditary power, they felt it would soon be superseded; and Sandilli, their Paramount Chief, and an accomplished Kaffir diplomatist, availing himself of this state of feeling, visited all the several chiefs, and urged on them the necessity of a last struggle for their waning independence, instigating them to use every means to spread disaffection among their people. To further his views he enlisted the services of Umlanjeni, one of their *Witch-doctors* and prophets, in whose predictions, the most absurd and preposterous, the Kaffirs placed superstitious faith. His influence was extraordinary, and spread like wildfire among them, and the spirit of disaffection was once more deeply at work. Secret and active emissaries were sent far and wide to the Kaffirs located on the different farms in the service of colonists, with orders to desert their employers, which they promptly obeyed, absconding without warning, and in many instances leaving their property and wages behind.

"At length, in spite of the reluctance of the authorities to believe in any hostile intentions on the part of the enemy, the truth of such suspicions became so apparent, that intelligence of the unsettled state of affairs, and an expected movement, was despatched to Sir Harry Smith at Cape Town."

From the narrative of military services we select one passage, which gives a life-like picture of the kind of warfare in which the troops were commonly engaged:—

"We had not long been here when a party of officers who had gone up with their glasses to the top of one of the ridges, came quickly down and ordered the men to get under arms at once, as the Kaffirs were approaching in hundreds, running full speed from every quarter. Instantly all was activity; the men sprang up from their rest, horses were driven in, accoutrements hurried on, the un-tasted contents of soup-kettles, emptied on the grass, and pack-horses loaded with incredible dispatch.

"In the meantime, being Officer-on-duty, I doubled out with the advance guard, speedily extending, in skirmishing order, along the ridge, above which the enemy were advancing, and with whom the next moment we were exchanging shots at very short range. They were almost hidden by the long grass in which they crouched to fire, and their numbers being overwhelming, the reply we made to their fire was but a temporary check, so that we were soon being gradually forced back, when Captain Duff came rapidly up with a company of the 74th, and reinforced our line of skirmishers; the whole fixed bayonets, charged the enemy's line with the Highland shout, and drove them back into the bush.

"The column, which had got under arms with the greatest celerity during this skirmish, now came up, and the Colonel formed the whole infantry in extended order, with the right on the head of the Wolf's-back Pass, and the left 'thrown back,' the 74th being placed on either flank, with the irregular infantry in the centre; Lieut.-Col. Sutton, with the cavalry, remaining for the present in the rear as a support. The enemy, who had again advanced on the open plain during this movement, now came on in hundreds, running and yelling out their war-cry till within range, when an uninterrupted fire rattled along the lines on both sides, though, as we were well covered behind the ridge, we had no casualties beyond Colonel Fordyce's charger being shot under him.

"An immensely big Kaffir was noticed rushing down the opposite ridge, which was not more than 800 yards distant, and running at full speed across our line of fire; unmindful of a shower of balls that fell around him, and at his very feet, he kept straight on towards our right as though he bore a charmed life, shouting and encouraging the others to follow, as he headed them in an attempt to gain the Pass, and turn our right flank by moving along the edge of the forest. But in this they were foiled by Colonel Fordyce, who immediately ordered the line 'to take ground to the right,' while the mounted force, galloping to the front, gave them a volley from their carbines that told among them severely. For half an hour we maintained a sharp skirmish with only a loss of three killed and as many wounded, when the enemy retired on the forest, leaving us in undisputed possession of the ground. As so much ammunition had been expended it was useless now to wait for night and make our intended descent; the cavalry, therefore, was dispatched to the head of another pass, to hold it till our arrival. Macomo himself, at the same moment, conspicuously mounted on a white horse, led about 300 mounted Kaffirs to secure the same point, in which object, however, they were defeated. As soon as we began descending the Pass, the enemy again rushed in from all points, lining the forest through which it led.

"The road being exceedingly steep, narrow, and rugged, the cavalry in front marched down at a foot's pace, the infantry following, and the Fingoes leaping up the rear. The enemy concealed in the thick bush opened fire upon us the moment we entered the pass, wounding one of our men. We returned their fire whenever the smoke showed us where they lay, and thus continued our descent, with a desultory fire on both sides, till about half way down, when they showed in still greater force, filling the bush on both sides of us. The Fingoes in the rear now evinced their fears so strongly as to encourage a party of Kaffirs, armed with assegais, to rush in among them. This completed their panic, and firing right and left, at random, they hurried headlong down the narrow path *en masse* upon our rear with such force as to knock down and trample on many of our men, while by crushing through the ranks they hindered the others from loading. Emboldened by this, the main body rushed from their cover, hurled a discharge of their lighter throwing assegais, and then (with the heavier kind, used for stabbing) threw themselves upon us. Our steady fellows had little to depend on but their bayonets, to the use of which they had fortunately long been regularly trained, and now used most effectually. The underwood swarmed with Kaffirs, they were perched in the trees, firing upon us from above, and rushed from the bush below in hundreds, yelling in the most diabolical and ferocious manner, hissing through their white teeth; their bloody faces, brawny limbs, and enormous size, giving them a most formidable appearance.

"The narrow road was crowded with a mass of troops, Levees and Kaffirs, the ringing yells of the latter heard above the din of the firing. Some wrestling with the men for their firelocks, were blown almost in pieces, and many were felled and brained by the butt-ends of clubbed muskets. Our gallant fellows fought most bravely; one man, with an assegai deeply buried between his shoulders,

singled out its owner, and shot him through the head, with the weapon nearly protruding through his chest; a grenadier killed four Kaffirs with his own hand. The huge fellow already mentioned appeared suddenly among us, and seizing a soldier in his powerful grasp, hurled him to the ground; but the man jumping to his feet in a moment, buried his bayonet in the fellow's back, and he fell dead on his face. Three Kaffirs had caught one of our men by the blanket folded on his back, and were dragging him into the bush, when the straps slipping over his shoulders, released him, and he threw himself, unarmed, on the nearest, and wrestled with him for his assegai, both rolling over and over, scuffling on the ground, the well-greased body of the Kaffir giving him the advantage over the dressed and belted soldier, whose death wound was, however, amply avenged. The ground was soon thickly strewn with the black corpses of the enemy; a score lay in the path, and here and there the lifeless form of a dead or dying Highlander, eight of whom fell, while as many more were wounded. Fighting our way through hundreds of the infuriated savages, we effected the descent of the pass; by the time we had reached the foot the enemy's fire had almost ceased.

"On gaining the open ground, we extended and moved leisurely along the plain, the Kaffirs contenting themselves with remaining at the edge of the bush on the rise of the hill, a dense red mass of some two thousand men; a few scattered parties dodging from tree to tree, fired long shots, which fell far short, and to which we made no return, our ammunition being nearly expended.

"Our total casualties were fifteen men and four horses killed, and fourteen men wounded."

Sir Harry Smith, in a despatch to Earl Grey, the Colonial Minister, in December, 1851, describes the Kaffirs as most dangerous foes, and says: "Fraternized with the numerous and well-trained Hottentot race, they are, in their mode of guerrilla warfare, most formidable enemies, as much so as I have ever encountered; and I speak with some experience in war." Even in some more regular engagements, the difficulty our troops had in overcoming the enemy was great. We quote part of the account of the attack on the Waterkloof, when Lieutenant-Colonel Fordyce and other officers fell:—

"After leading our flank into the bush in person, and giving his final orders, Colonel Fordyce proceeded to the left of the regiment to direct their movements against the fastness held by the enemy, from the shelter of which they kept up an annoying fire. At this moment he had advanced to the edge of the bush in front, and was in the very act of directing an attack upon it, when he was shot through the body, and fell to rise no more; the last and only words of our brave chief were, 'Take care of my regiment': he was borne to the rear, and breathed his last in a few minutes.

"Though our heavy loss was not immediately known, the regiment was for a moment thrown into confusion in consequence of his last orders having been but partly delivered. The rebels yelled in exultation, but the next instant were silenced by an avenging volley, which drove them in again behind the shelter of their protecting trees and rocks, which the regiment boldly and steadily advanced to storm under a fatal fire, which told fearfully among our ranks. Carey fell, pierced through the body, at the head of his company, and was carried off the field a corpse; and immediately afterwards Gordon was mortally wounded by a ball which passed through both thighs, and lodging in the body of a soldier close by, killed him on the spot. The loss in the ranks was equally severe; one man was cut down after another, until, maddened by the fall of their officers and comrades, the regiment, under Captain Duff (on whom as senior officer the command had now devolved), rushed to the fatal barricade with such infuriated and irresistible determination, as to clear all before them, killing numbers of the enemy, chiefly rebel Hottentots, who

fled in confusion, and carrying the position, which we maintained almost un molested until the troops were withdrawn in the afternoon."

The storming of the Amatolas heights was a gallant affair, in which the author and his Highlanders were engaged:—

"After scrambling down to the bottom, we formed 'column of sub-divisions,' and moved across the valley, perceiving as we neared the lofty ridge opposite several hundreds of the enemy gathering on its summit, their arms flashing and glittering along the edge of the cliff in the morning sun. There was only one point at which this apparently impregnable position was accessible, and that was by a long steep exposed grassy ridge, destitute of all cover, and completely commanded from the top by a perfect fortification of huge detached rocks, behind which we could perceive the enemy strongly posted and quietly waiting our attack, confident in the security of their position. Up this formidable ascent, bare and slippery as the roof of a house, the 74th were ordered to advance and storm the natural citadel at its summit. In the meantime heavy firing, about a mile distant on our right, announced that Col. Sutton's column was engaged with the enemy in that direction; while the different corps of native levies were moved round to our right and left flanks, those on the left skirmishing through the bush and setting fire to a number of Kaffir huts. Pushing rapidly on to the point of attack, we waded the river, and commenced the arduous ascent, up which, in spite of a burning sun, the men mounted like true Highlanders. To our surprise the enemy allowed us to come considerably within range, and we were beginning to imagine the position was abandoned, when suddenly they opened fire upon us from the shelter of the crags, sweeping every inch of the smooth approach, themselves invisible, the tops only of their black heads peeping over the rocks as they took aim, and disappearing again as instantaneously as the flash of their guns. Showers of balls whistled past us, with the peculiar *ping, whit*, so well known to those who have been under fire; as we mounted, we returned their fire with steady well-directed volleys every time their heads were seen above the parapet of rocks, and deployed into line under a rattling fire, and the fight began in earnest. A private fell shot in the foot. For a quarter of an hour there was an incessant roar of musketry and whistling of bullets. As we neared the top, scrambling with hands and knees up the crags, which were now discovered to be of enormous size, and in places insurmountable, the fire became hotter, the balls striking the ground and sending the earth and gravel flying in our faces. \* \* \*

"We continued skirmishing as they retired before us, dodging from tree to rock, and from rock to bush, taking advantage of every cover to give us a shot, while we kept up an incessant 'independent-file-firing,' as they retreated, step by step, till lost in thickets, impervious to anything but wild beasts or Kaffirs. Having driven them into their inaccessible retreats among the extensive forests clothing the higher steppes of the mountain, and inflicted considerable loss upon them, we skirmished through a belt of wood on our right, and after completely scouring it debouched on an open, where we halted in column, and for the first time for nine hours sat down to rest our weary limbs. Here we assisted the surgeon in performing different operations on the wounded, whose cries for water were so constant, that our canteens were soon left without a drop to moisten our own lips, parched and blistered by the sun."

Without scientific knowledge, the writer gives frequent notices of the features of the country, and of its natural history, in the off-hand manner of the following passage in the Journal:—

"In the evening, as the setting sun crimsoned the warmly tinted rocks of the higher hills, whose base was already veiled in shade and blue haze, we halted after twenty miles' weary march,

at Sanna Sprouts, in one large encampment, placing out-lying pickets of Cavalry on the rising ground; the lances and pennons seen against the glowing sky gave the groups a most picturesque appearance. Two or three ostrich eggs were found in the sand, and brought into camp; they made excellent omelettes. Next day the face of the country slightly improved, the grass approached nearer to green, and a fine range of blue mountains was seen in the horizon, some like domes with pointed minarets, others sharp serrated peaks, and one or two resembling chimneys.

"The scanty vegetation of the plains was varied now and then by patches of orange, purple, and pink mesembryanthemum; the beautiful haemanthus, and brilliant convolvulus; also by small yellow and scarlet poppies, with sharp prickly leaves like the thistle.

"We were greatly astonished at the frogs which haunted the dry sandy desert, far from any springs or water. They were enormous fellows, as big as a sheep's haggis, and of a bright green; when we stirred them up with a ramrod, they snapped at it like a dog, following it round and round, and showing fight in the fiercest manner.

"Chameleons were common, and some of the scenes among the men who stood amazed at their changes were very amusing. The variety and quantity of lizards was something incredible.

"Immense green grasshoppers kept rising from the ground on the line of march, fluttering before us with brilliant scarlet wings, and as in the colony, the lights in our tents at night constantly attracted the strange looking 'mantis religiosa' or praying insect. It is an old story that the Hottentots once worshipped them, and our men used occasionally to chaff them on the point, offering them specimens for the purpose, which invariably put the Totties into a furious rage.

"In peculiar states of the atmosphere, the mirage once or twice made our thirsty mouths water in the broiling afternoon, by its tantalizing illusion of large lakes looming in the distance.

"Late in the day two distant specks, like a couple of little boats out at sea, were observed approaching the column, and soon proved to be Tolcher, the missing officer, and a Boer, who had fallen in with him near Smithfield, the place we had left three days ago! One night he had passed on the open plain, and had been thirty hours without food or water when he fortunately met the Dutchmen, who took him to his farm for the night, and brought him on after us the next day. As always happens in such cases, now that he was safe back, everybody who had before deeply deplored his fate, heartily abused him for his stupidity in losing himself.

"We had now fairly entered Moshesh's country, and no more firing was allowed, lest he might construe it into an act of hostility. About nine in the morning we halted at the deserted remains of an old Basuto village, consisting of round huts thatched with dry grass, and stone cattle kraals, similar to the sheep pens on our mountains at home. The huts differ in several respects from those of the Kaffirs, being smaller, slightly pointed on the top, and entered by a sort of porch, the door so low as to compel one to enter on hands and knees. Nine miles further, we came to the Lieuw River (*Lions River*), and halted on the opposite bank, after wading waist deep through the narrow rushing stream. We found the banks on both sides so steep and awkward that before the wagons could be moved, the whole force of Sappers and Miners, and a fatigue party beside, had to cut the banks away with spades and picks, and even then, with double teams of oxen, and a legion of whips stretched across the river, all going at once, five hours did not bring over more than half the train, the rest remaining for the night, with a strong guard, on the other side.

"Now that we could not shoot, the game became tantalizingly plentiful. The plain was scarcely ever without small herds or single animals. Our track was seldom more than the half-obliterated marks of some trader's wagon of the year before.

"The supplies of dung for fuel were very

materially interfered with by millions of black beetles, called 'dung rollers,' a kind of scarabaeus, which swarmed day after day on every part of the plain. A fresh deposit was instantaneously attacked by these unfiring scavengers, who were incessantly at work, rolling the dung into large balls, bustling about, and running breech foremost, with their load between their hind legs, as fast as they could go, apparently to nowhere in particular, and fighting most fiercely with each other for pieces of 'fuel' twice as big as themselves, the vanquished one going off in a great hurry to get another ball to roll, none seeming to know his own.

'During the day we passed several small deserted villages; the evening closed in with one of the thunder-storms of the country, as terrific as any we had witnessed.'

After the war was brought to a close under Lord Cathcart, most of the British troops engaged in it were withdrawn. The 74th were sent to India. Other regiments, including the Rifles, were ordered home, and now form part of the expedition to the East. Captain King's book will be read with pleasure by his comrades in the perils and hardships of the African campaign, which was no bad school of military service. To the general reader the book contains much interesting information about the Kaffir country and its inhabitants. It is illustrated with engravings from sketches by the gallant and accomplished author.

*The Heir of Vallis.* By William Mathews. Three vols. Smith, Elder and Co.

*Janet Mowbray.* By Caroline Grautoff. Three vols. Hurst and Blackett.

We notice together these latest novels of their class, as much for the sake of contrast as anything else. The first is a tale of the strongest melo-dramatic kind, with improbable characters and still more improbable incidents, but written in a style that will interest those who seek astonishment and excitement in works of fiction. The other is a quiet domestic story, with no striking events and somewhat ordinary personages, but presenting faithful delineations of character as met with in every-day life. We think we may, by a single extract from each novel, give to our readers some idea of their character, and enable them to judge whether the books deserve their perusal:—

"Napier stood for a few moments in an attitude of intense curiosity, listening to detect the direction of the footsteps taken by the stranger, when, somewhere to the left of his position, he heard the creaking of a gate, and he strode forward, bent on observing, if possible, the motions of the man whose presence there at such an hour, and whose previous conduct, were both strange and puzzling to him. Napier reached the gate, and though the storm had now burst, and he was exposed to its fury, his purpose was so fixed, that he was nothing daunted. He felt a greater interest in the movements of this stranger than he could express; he neither doubted his honesty nor mistrusted his actions. There was, however, a peculiarity in his conduct,—an emphasis in the words he had before spoken to him,—a meaning in the expression of that quick glancing eye, which strengthened, almost ratified the conviction, that his fishing mania served for some ulterior purpose; and imagination thus at play, readily led Napier to the belief that the stranger's uncouth garb was assumed to enable him, under the disguise, to advance some object with which himself or his family were connected. Every passing minute, with fancy thus let loose, was of vast importance to Napier; yet he was compelled to pause from his lack of knowledge in reference to the path the stranger had taken; for still the rain fell, and the clouds loomed dark and

heavy upon the space around. After a while, however, the hurtling storm passed on; and then the moon, though still somewhat canopied in the darkened firmament, partially disclosed the heavy shadow.

Napier, though now relieved from the darkness, could not detect the presence of the person whose steps he was anxious to pursue. He was now in the immediate neighbourhood of a small picturesque cottage, inhabited by a widow lady of the name of Churchill, who here resided with an only daughter as her companion. The cottage stood, surrounded by a shrubbery, in a small paddock next to the field Napier had entered from the road. Baffled in his desire to trace the stranger, Pearson, he crossed the field with a lingering step, intending to reach the high road, and return by it to Vallis House. On stepping into the road, he took a long and attentive survey, evidently disengaged to give up his search; and as he became more familiar to the varying light, he was struck with the sight of a carriage, drawn up, as he perceived, at the roadside. Marvelling at so strange a circumstance, particularly as the vehicle remained stationary, he quickened his pace, thinking some accident must have occurred. Before he had proceeded far, however, his attention was attracted from the road to the field which led to the widow's cottage, by a partially suppressed scream; and again it was repeated. He gazed for a few moments to satisfy himself as to the position of things, when he saw persons in the meadow, evidently drawing on in the direction of the carriage; whilst he likewise perceived, though indirectly, a second party in fierce contention, some slight distance from the first. Following the impulse of his daring nature, he cleared the hedge at a bound, and hastened to ascertain the meaning of this strange proceeding.

"As he drew near, he saw the stranger, Pearson, struggling in the grasp of two ruffianly fellows, who at this instant bore him to the ground; whilst, a little in advance, he noticed a retreating form, hurrying to the carriage, with some burden in his arms. Napier's first act was to rush to the assistance of the fallen man. At a glance he seemed to divine that theirs was a common cause; and he seized the nearest person, who knelt above the stranger, with an iron grasp, and wrenched him backward from his hold; but not before he received a heavy blow on the head from the other who shared in the fray. Before Napier could turn, the person calling himself Pearson was on his feet; and casting a hasty glance upon his deliverer, he cried, as he snatched up a stake which lay upon the ground:—'Thanks, Mr. Napier, my grateful thanks; now leave these scoundrels to me—I can defend myself—and hasten to the rescue of yonder female; a foul act has been perpetrated.' And so speaking, he dealt sweeping blows on the heads of his assailants."

This is only the commencement of a tremendous scene, the book containing successions of tableaux of an equally vivid nature. Those who love to indulge in literary strong waters will find in 'The Heir of Vallis' gratification to their taste. The same readers would vote 'Janet Mowbray' slow, but there are others who prefer fictions of a smoother tone, and are not shocked by representations of common life, when they convey lessons of what is useful and good. If the following passage pleases them they will be pleased with the book:—

"Nearly a week had passed, in quiet, almost solemn, happiness; and Walter and Janet were walking side by side across the little common, which has been already more than once mentioned as Windmill Green. They had come slowly from Rutherford Park, through fields and lanes, and so earnest and absorbing had been their conversation, that it was not without some surprise that now, when the twilight was already fading from blue to grey, they discovered how far their sauntering had led them.

"They passed the lodge of the Grange, and looking through the gate, caught sight of the old gabled building itself, with its back-ground of green hills; and thence, crossing the turf, they reached the little gate leading into the park of Stonelands. Here they paused, and gazed in silence upon the stately home of Walter's youth.

"'If I could have taken you there, Janet,' said he, presently, with a slight sigh.

"'It is better as it is,' she replied; 'it is better to achieve greatness, than to be born to it.'

"'Perhaps you are right,' said he; 'yes—I am sure you are; it was for you, however, not for myself, that I was thinking.'

"'And do you suppose that I should have been half so happy, half so proud, in being mistress of Stonelands, and you had been but an idler about your farms and fields, as I see so many of our neighbours here—and had never worked, and put forth your strength, and never gone to India, and—and—many things, which I know I must not speak of to you, had never happened? it is better for us both as it is.'

"He pressed her hand, and they continued their way; and Walter was soon describing, for the hundredth time, the home he had prepared for Janet in London; a very humble home, in a London street. It was not wholly without misgivings that he could approach the subject. How, he asked, would she be able to bear the life in a large town? Would she not pine for the air, the sights, the sounds of the country? she could form no idea of the restraint, the monotony, the gloom, and the confinement, in store for her. He was almost terrified at the prospect of such an existence, for one who had never yet quitted the bright skies and fresh breezes of her native place. Had he been selfish—had he asked too much? But Janet knew that all his fears were groundless; she was going to a home, to a protector, and to love. What could she desire more? she felt that, for her, love and happiness were, henceforth, one; she tried hard to inspire Walter with an equal faith, and to make him fear less on her account—and, indeed, he was not unwilling to be convinced. He then began to tell her of the old manor house, by the sea shore, lent to him by a friend for the first few days after their marriage, and he was still describing and anticipating, when he was arrested by the pressure of her hand upon his arm.

"'Do you see that light? there, among the trees; that is at Wood's End. There is a short way from here over the fields, skirting the side of the garden, and one can see over the hedge into the shrubbery the whole way. I should so like to go there once more; do you know the way?'

The story is an illustration of the motto—  
"How full of briars is this working-day world," but it also shows how the trials of life may be lightened, and how hopes and consolations abound.

*The Roman State from 1815 to 1850.* By Luigi Carlo Farini. Vol. IV. Translated, under the direction of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, by a lady. J. Murray.

HAVING already devoted more than one review to Farini's history ('L. G.', 1851, pp. 435, 456; 'L. G.', 1852, p. 491), we have only to notice the contents of this fourth and concluding volume of the work. It narrates the events that took place from the arrival of the French at Civita Vecchia, to the termination of the Roman Republic and the restoration of the Papacy. It is difficult to maintain temperance of feeling or of language in referring to the interference of the French republicans with their Italian brethren, or to the results of the re-establishment of the Papal authority, which the friends of knowledge and freedom had fondly hoped was overthrown in 1848. We forbear from entering into a discussion of the religious and

political questions suggested by this remarkable episode in modern history, and merely present some of the statements of Signor Farini, whose repugnance to the patriots of the Mazzini school does not blind him to the evils under which his country groans under the ecclesiastical régime. The leading events of the Republic, and of the occupation of Rome by the French army, are well known, but there are many details which are described with authenticity and spirit by the present historian. We give his account of the last effort made for the Roman cause by the gallant Garibaldi. His whole career is one of the most romantic chapters in modern history:—

"Under favour of night Garibaldi escaped from the French, under the guidance of Ciceruacchio, and arrived at Tivoli on the morning of the 3rd, with all his followers, and a great quantity of wagons, baggage, and ammunition. As long as he had any hope of being followed by the other Roman troops, and the Commissioners of the Assembly, he intended to go to Spoleto, a city conveniently adapted, in his opinion, for defence, and not yet occupied by the enemy; and after having established the seat of Government there, to hoist once more the standard of the Republic, and renew the desperate war. But when this hope had vanished, he directed his audacious thoughts to Venice, which was still magnanimously resisting the Austrians; but he wished to avoid pitched battles, to reach the Adriatic by unbroken paths, and thence to set sail for the Lagune. He was accompanied by the few surviving fellow-soldiers who had followed him from America, where, with him, they had cast a lustre on Italian valour, and had shared in all the adventures of the war. He was also accompanied by his Anita, his devoted wife, a lady of Brazilian origin, who had made him father of three sons, and was about to give birth to a fourth child, and who had always fought at his side with masculine energy. They left Tivoli at the close of day on the 3rd of July, and passed the night at Monticelli; the following day they reached Monte Rotondo, whence they took their departure on the 6th, traversed the Via Salara towards Poggio Mirteto, and with severe and long-continued fatigue crossed the hills which descend from the Apennines, and arrived at Terni, with all their baggage, on the 9th.

"Thus Garibaldi baffled the designs of General Oudinot, who had ordered him to be pursued by the first division of his army; on the roads leading to Albano, Frascati, and Tivoli, by General Moller; and by the cavalry under General Morris, on the roads to Civita Vecchia, Castellana, Orvieto, and Viterbo; but neither the French, Spanish, nor Neapolitans succeeded in cutting off his march. Having found Colonel Forbes at Terni, with 900 men, he gave him the command of one legion, the other was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Sacchi; the cavalry by an American called Bueno; each legion was formed of three cohorts, each cohort of five or six centuries.

"On the night of the 11th they left Terni, and moved on towards Todi, by way of San Gemini, arriving there on the 13th. News from Tuscany had reached the place before their arrival; it was stated that the minds of the people were boiling over with anger, because the Grand Duke had not only delivered up rebellious Leghorn into the power of the Austrians, but even Florence—which had restored him to his Duchy by means of the courage of the people—Florence, beautiful Florence, was overrun by the Croats; the Austrians were few and scattered, the passion of revenge was burning in the hearts of the people; if the Romans passed the confines, Tuscany would rise to a man; Garibaldi, therefore, determined to try his fortune there, with the intention, if the Tuscan enterprise should fail, to repass the Apennines and repair to the Adriatic. Having found some guns at Todi, he took one which was small and light, left the wagons, horses, and superfluous ammunition behind him, and prepared for his departure."

Then follows an account of the movements of the little army, reduced gradually to about three thousand men, but which baffled the hostile forces by whom it was surrounded, and made good its retreat toward the Adriatic. Pressed by overwhelming numbers of Austrian troops, Garibaldi had retired from Todi on the 19th July, 1849, and crossed the Apennines on the 27th, and after several encounters with the enemy during the retreat, by which they were kept at bay, he resolved to enter the republic of San Marino, and thence to proceed by sea, with some of his bravest and most trustworthy followers, to Venice:—

"It was an arduous expedition to reach San Marino; wild unknown paths, dense woods, impetuous torrents, and not only the Austrians, who were descending from the Tuscan Apennines in their rear, but before them, and on both sides, those who were pressing on from Romagna. Garibaldi marched during the whole of the 29th, and arrived at Macerata Feltria in the evening; the following day he occupied Pietra Rubbia, recommenced his march, ran the risk of losing himself in the woods, was attacked in a valley by the enemy from the adjoining heights, but, in spite of all, arrived with his people at San Marino on the 31st, where he published the following manifesto:—

"'Soldiers! we have reached a land of refuge, and must conduct ourselves with propriety towards our generous hosts. We shall thus merit the consideration which is due to persecuted misfortune. I exonerate my comrades from all obligations, and leave them free to return to their homes; but let them remember that Italy ought not to remain under oppression, and that it is better to die than to live as slaves to the foreigner.'

"The Austrians were making preparations for attacking the Republic of San Marino, but the authorities, anxious to come to terms, went to General Gorzhowski, who was then at Rimini, and who intimated to them that he would act with forbearance if the legions would lay down their arms; that he would permit them to return to their homes, and that he would send Garibaldi to America; in the meantime 10,000 men took possession of the passes. Part of the legions, on hearing this proposal, cried out, 'Surrender! Never! better die; to Venice! to Venice!' and Garibaldi, starting up, raised his haughty head, and exclaimed, 'I offer fresh sufferings, greater perils, death, perhaps, to all who will follow me; but terms with the foreigner—never!' (Why was not Mazzini, who swore he would never come to terms with the foreigner, why was not he with Garibaldi?) Then he mounted his horse, and departed with 300 men and his wife. On reaching Cesenatico, he took the few Austrians who were in the garrison prisoners, made ready thirteen fishing-boats, and on the morning of the 3rd of August, steered for Venice.

"The Austrian, after seeking him in vain on the hills and in the valleys, put forth a proclamation, in which he threatened death to any one who should shelter Garibaldi, guide him, or give fire, bread, or water to him, or to his followers, or to his pregnant wife. He then went to San Marino, and agreed with the authorities to give liberty to the 900 men who had consented to lay down their arms. He afterwards caused these men to be stopped on the road, and sent prisoners to Bologna; the Lombards he consigned to the prisons of Mantua, and set the Romans at liberty after they had each received thirty blows with a stick.

"Garibaldi, who was a skilful navigator, and sailing with a favourable wind, had already rounded the *Punta di Maestra*, and could see the towers of the Queen of the Adriatic, when the Austrian ships attacked him, and the wind became no longer propitious. The sailors lost courage at the discharge of the cannon, but Garibaldi's heart did not fail him. He attempted to force a passage, and kept his boats together for the purpose, until one of the enemy's ships separated them. Eight got scattered; in vain he attempted to rally them;

they were taken, and the prisoners, loaded with chains, were sent to the fortress of Pola. Garibaldi escaped with the rest, and, driven upon the Roman coast, succeeded in landing on the shore of Mesola on the morning of the 5th of August. He had with him his wife, Ciceruacchio with his two sons, a Lombard officer of the name of Livraghi, a Barnabite monk named Bassi, and other officers and soldiers whose names are not known. They endeavoured to seek safety in flight; Garibaldi, with his Anita and a comrade, directed their steps towards Ravenna, and travelled for two days, recognised, sheltered, and succoured by the peasants, the police, and the revenue officers, in spite of the Austrian proclamation. But on the third day his wife, exhausted by anxiety and fatigue, fainted, and in a short time breathed her last, in the arms of her inconsolable husband. Garibaldi then went to Ravenna, thence to Tuscany, afterwards to Genoa and Tunis, and lastly emigrated to America. The others, who had been driven on shore with him, wandered at hazard amidst the woods and on the moors, chased, slain like wild beasts, and left unburied. Nothing was ever heard of the greater portion, but melancholy accounts remain of two, Ugo Bassi the Barnabite, and Livraghi, who were put in chains and taken to Bologna, where we shall see how their lives finished miserably soon afterwards. Thus ended the Roman Republic."

The history of Farini professes to describe the Roman State only to the restoration of the Pontifical government, but an appendix, in the form of a letter to Mr. Gladstone, presents a statement of the actual condition of affairs at a more recent period. The author judges right in supposing that foreigners must feel some curiosity respecting the more striking events that have since occurred, and we are satisfied that a more impartial witness on the whole could not communicate the desired information. Here, then, is the testimony of a Roman, who is no friend of the Italian patriots, an orthodox Papist, and one who formerly entertained high hopes for his country under the enlightened government of Pius IX.:—

"When Pius IX. reascended the throne of mercy, he did not relieve the oppressed, but, on the contrary, his government became more and more severe during the period which preceded and followed his return. And as, where factions are triumphant, the good, confiding in their own innocence, do not care to seek for defenders, a pursuit for which the guilty show an astonishing aptitude, it happened that many defenceless persons, who had already suffered from republican violence, were ruined during that period, for there was nothing harsh, grasping, or unjust, which the triumphant faction did not dare to perpetrate. Hence those few citizens who had always flattered themselves that they should receive gentle and humane treatment on the return of the Pope, lost all hope, and irritated by fresh injuries, soon forgot the sufferings of the revolution, and made common cause with those who had feared and prognosticated every kind of evil from the restoration of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope. Moreover, as the revolution had been brought to an end by force of arms, and not by compliance with the legitimate wants and desires of the people, Mazzini took advantage of the errors and treachery of the Government, to stir up afresh the minds of many whom a prudent and honourable government might have conciliated, by a humane and temperate course of action.

"The anniversary of the Republic having been celebrated in Rome by some fireworks, the prelates of the *Sacra Consulta* condemned to twenty years of the galleys certain youths who had been accused of this singular crime, which the inventive genius of the judges had created and punished before it was inscribed in the code. The young men of the city having abstained from smoking tobacco in order to annoy the Government and lessen the revenue, the same tribunal invented the crime of

coalition against the use of tobacco, and condemned some individuals who had been accused of it to the galleys—punishments inflicted, according to them, by way of example, and for the purpose of striking terror; a singular mode indeed of administering Christian justice. The Austrian officers gave still more singular and numerous instances of this kind of justice in the provinces over which they tyrannised; for example, abstinence from tobacco, singing, political squibs, caricatures, crimes which the Austrians termed *anti-political demonstrations*, were punished with imprisonment in heavy irons, with fasting, and with blows on the bare flesh; and these punishments were inflicted, not only by way of penalty, but also as tortures to drag from their victims the lying confession wrung from suffering. I speak of things which are universally known, the sentences are public, a whole people are the witnesses; three years and a half have already passed, and they still continue to pass sentence after this fashion; to flog and to proscribe.

"The numerous proscriptions, the innumerable emigrations, have deprived the *Sacra Consulta* of much material for inquisition. Cernuschi, who had the good fortune to be tried by the French, was set at liberty after a short imprisonment; the French also facilitated the escape of Gazzola, a prelate, and of Achilli, formerly a monk; Count Faella, of Imola, a Deputy of the Constituent Assembly, was kept in prison three years, and then banished as a special favour by the Pope. Calandrelli was condemned to an infamous punishment, although public opinion, as well as his blameless life, witnessed to his innocence; Bubani, of Bagnacavallo, a moderate and honourable man, was severely punished, because, when president of the province of Fermo, he had arrested Cardinal de Angelis by order of the Government; the soldiers of the National Guard, who had carried this order into execution, were also punished; Count Puliti, of Recanati, a Deputy, was condemned to death—then, by special favour, his sentence was commuted to perpetual imprisonment. I say nothing of many other sentences, but I may mention, as an example of inquisitions and punishments of minor importance, that a person was condemned by the *Sacra Consulta* to five years of the galleys, because he had printed a satire against a deceased priest during the period of the Republic.

"The investigations and sentences of the Court of Censorship on the officers of the Government and of the Municipalities have lasted three years, and perhaps are not yet ended. I will give some instances of the justice and equity of this secret tribunal. A certain Marchesini, head of the post at Bologna, a man who was averse to interfering in political affairs of any kind whatever, and who, in perilous times, had shown hospitality to a brother of the Pope, was made the victim of the Court; Martinelli, an advocate, was deprived of his Professorship in the University, though he had been condemned to the very same sentence by the Government of the Republic, because he had refused to give in his adhesion to it; Ferranti, a priest, who had brought forward a motion in the Municipal Council for the restoration of the Constitutional Government of the Pope, was also deprived of his Professorship; Alessandri, the principal ornament of the *Athenaeum*, was removed from his office for some time; and even Professor Montanari, an Ex-Minister, who had gone with the Pope to Gaeta, was admonished. In Rome, Professor Baroni, a skilful physician, who had formerly been a surgeon to Gregory XVI., was deprived of his rank and office, because he had superintended the military hospitals of the Republic; De Rossi lost his chair because he had once appeared in the Constituent Assembly to vote against the majority of the Deputies who had deposed the Pope.

"If any one were to draw up a record of all the sentences which the *Sacra Consulta* and the Austrian military tribunals have passed in the Pontifical State; if he were to compile the statistics of all the subjects of the Pope who have been deprived of their offices, banished, proscribed, flogged, and imprisoned, he would prove to Europe and Chris-

tendom, much more conclusively than any history or reasoning, what kind of peace the crusade of 1849 has produced."

A sad picture is then drawn of the miserable condition of the country, where the authorities seem to have no power to repress the violence and crime that abounds. English travellers along the high-roads, and residents in the fashionable quarters of Rome and other Italian cities, hear little of the true state of the people among whom they sojourn:—

"In the annals of the last three years have also to be recounted the extraordinary exploits of the brigands, who, in the very midst of so many foreign troops, and during a state of siege, not only break into houses, stop, strip and kill travellers, but who plunder small towns and villages, skirmish with soldiers, and give banquets and dances at their own good pleasure. It is of no avail that the Austrians flog, torture, shoot them by hundreds; they are masters of the lives and property of the defenceless citizens, who are obliged to pay taxes to these thieves, in addition to the taxes and exactions of the Government; happy if they can purchase from them, with gold, that protection which the Government cannot afford. Punishments are frequent, yet rapine does not diminish; the brigands meet death with extraordinary fortitude, their crimes do not excite astonishment, nor their deaths inspire fear.

"Assassins shed blood to gratify political revenge, and the Government revenges assassinations with blood. In Rome, Nardoni was wounded by a dagger, and the gallows were raised; Dandini, an assessor of the Police, was wounded; Evangelisti, a Secretary of the *Sacra Consulta*, was slain; in the provinces any Commissioner or officer who was severe and zealous was either killed or wounded. Yet, tremendous and numerous examples have been made of the assassins who infested our city during the Revolution, and more are anticipated; but they will all be ineffectual, because too late and too numerous, and not backed by guarantees of impartial justice."

Of the abuses and evils of the restored Pontifical government a melancholy account is given. The author states at great length his own views as to the best constitution for the Roman States, the Pope still remaining as a temporal sovereign, but governing with the aid of laymen. These theoretical opinions are of less interest than the facts reported as to the actual state of affairs in the Pontifical States. Of the estimation in which the church and the clergy are held by the people the following account is given:—

"The Roman people will never be at rest as long as they are governed by the clergy, that is to say, by a caste which vows to detach itself from the world, while it aspires to the privilege of managing worldly affairs. Now, this privilege not only humiliates, irritates, and excites the laity to rebellion, so as to be a constant cause of disorders in the State, but also occasions manifest injury to religious belief. Bossuet remarked, long ago, that the German people hated the bishops, not because they were pastors of souls, but because they were their sovereigns. What Bossuet said of the bishops of Germany may be said of the cardinals, the bishops, the prelates, and the priests, who have the privilege of governing the State of Rome; in fact, the clergy are hated and despised to such a degree, that a real moral schism exists between the priest and the citizen. There is no part of the world in which the Pope is less respected than in the country where he exercises temporal sovereignty, because the worst kind of government is carried on there in his name, there the gallows are raised, there prescriptions are in force; there the lash is inflicted in the name of the Pope. Imprecations against the Government ascend to the Prince, who is Pope, and the majesty of the Pontiff is on the wane. The bishops are little

loved, little respected, because a man is made a bishop, who, a short time previously, was at the head of the police, and because the pastor leaves his flock to take up the sword; the citizen thus easily slides from moral into religious schism, and it may be clearly seen that at the very time when religious belief is gaining ground elsewhere, scepticism is raising its head higher and higher in the States of the Pope, and religious observances are neglected or derided. To say that if cardinals, bishops, and priests were not to govern, spiritual authority would not be independent, is as much as to assert that it is not independent in the lay States; it is tantamount to saying, that every bishop ought to be a temporal prince in his province, every priest in his parish.

"Representative Government is another indispensable condition of the Pontifical sovereignty; absolute Government places every monarchy in peril, because the errors which it commits, the evils which it causes, the hatred which it foments, not only weaken the Prince, but act as a lever to overthrow the throne, and where laws do not exist to moderate the violent will of the Government, the violent will of the multitude rages, and revolution is the fearful but logical consequence of absolutism. Now, as no monarch is so much in need of the love, obedience, and reverence of his people as the Prince who is also Pontiff, and since it is necessary to the integrity of his authority and spiritual majesty, that no one should be able to attribute to him the fatal mischances, errors, and misdeeds of his Government, it follows that representative institutions are more necessary to the Papal than to any other monarchy; and, in point of fact, it was only when the Papacy allowed a large measure of liberty to the Communes, that it was regarded with satisfaction by the people, for then it acted more as protector than as master; that is to say, it adapted itself to those free institutions which were valued as guarantees of the rights of the people.

"Some affirm that certain public liberties, the freedom of the press, for example, and of the tribune, are adverse to religion; and M. de Montebello, who has recently written a book to prove from the data of reason and of history, that representative Government advances the interests of the Church, takes care to make it understood that this principle does not apply to the Papal States. But if it be true, as it doubtless is, that liberty benefits religion, it cannot be maintained, without asserting a paradox, that it is injurious where the Church has her supreme seat, otherwise it would be necessary to say, that it benefits at a distance, and not near at hand, or else that the Church of the State of Rome is not the Church of France or Belgium, or that the Roman people are a race predestined by God to be deprived of liberty to the end of time. On the other hand, if all the citizens in the State of Rome (thanks to free institutions) were to enjoy common rights, the clergy would always have pre-eminent authority over the minds of men, through the nature of their ministry, and by the innate strength of their Constitution, seeing that, even in the midst of liberty and common rights, they hold the high privilege of moral authority. For if the layman speaks against religion, the priest has not only the platform free to him, as to every other citizen, but he has also the pulpit, where the holiness of the place and the piety of the faithful sanctify his words; if various sects disturb the consciences of any by their errors, the priest can calm, console, restore them all; if the press propagate error, not only can every priest effectually combat it by his talents and learning, but he may use his spiritual authority, and prohibit the faithful from reading all such writings as he may deem pernicious."

In dedicating the concluding volume of his work to Mr. Gladstone, Signor Farini expresses in warmest terms the sense of gratitude entertained by all patriotic Italians for the interest that statesman takes in their country, and for the good services he has rendered by making its condition better known

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to foreigners. The eulogium is just and merited, and we shall rejoice if Mr. Gladstone's name procures for this work a wider circulation than it otherwise might obtain in England.

*The Progress of a Painter in the Nineteenth Century, containing Remarks and Conversations upon Art.* By John Burnet. Bogue.

UNDER the form of narrative and anecdote, Mr. Burnet's book presents interesting information and useful practical hints on the art of painting. Among the characters introduced into the work are Wilkie, Etty, Nasmyth, Gibson, Turner, and others, of whom the author speaks from personal acquaintance; and while their remarks, as here introduced, are ideal, they express their known opinions, and nearly in the very words, Mr. Burnet adds, which he had heard them utter. A book of this kind can hardly fail to be interesting from its matter, though its style is somewhat diffuse and irregular. The spirit of nationality throughout the work will specially please Scottish readers. Of Wilkie many characteristic traits are given, commencing with his shrewd and kind advice to his young countryman, on first arriving in London, whose progress as a painter the narrative describes. From the miscellaneous memoranda we select one passage, which will be read with additional interest from the large share of attention bestowed on pictorial and scenic effects in the drama of the present day. In producing *Macbeth* last year, Mr. C. Kean took much pains to ensure historical and local accuracy, with what success the following account of a previous attempt by John Kemble will serve to illustrate:—

"One morning Mr. Scaif called upon us to accompany him to Covent Garden Theatre, to see some scenes Mr. Capon had painted for the tragedy of *Macbeth*, which John Kemble was bringing out with new scenery, dresses, and decorations.

"Capon," said he, "has been down in Scotland, and went to Perth, to make studies of the vicinity, Birnam Wood, the palace of Scone, and Dunsinane Hill. He had even traced the foundation remains of Macbeth's castle, so anxious is Kemble to have a fac-simile of the scenery. We have no time to lose, as Capon has invited a few friends to rehearse the scenes before."

"We arrived at the theatre in time to see the first scene, and we found our friend Gibson among the party. In scene first there was nothing particular to remark, except it represented a flat country, with a dark thunder-and-lightning sky, not unlike the broad effects of some of Girtin's drawings, whose style at this period began to be appreciated and imitated. The next, the camp scene, near Fores, might have been painted by any one, and I have no doubt was got up by one of the assistants. The third scene, where Macbeth and Banquo make their appearance, was not a heath, as mentioned in the play, but reminded us of a composition of Zuccarelli's of the same subject, with the figures painted by Mortimer, and now familiar to every one from the beautiful engraving by Woollett.

"Aha!" exclaimed Gibson, "I see where you have been."

"Why," observed Capon, "I was anxious to give a variety."

"Very good, but not at the expense of truth. My good fellow, you have introduced more trees into the scene than Samuel Johnson saw in his whole journey through Scotland; besides, the idea of your taking a hint from an Italian painter, applicable to Scottish landscape! Zuccarelli, though patronized by the nobility of this country, never did anything worthy of imitation. The only sen-

sible observation I ever heard of his was, that he thought it strange he should be invited to this country, when they had so superior an artist already in Richard Wilson."

"The next scene that called for any remarks was the entrance to the castle. Capon owned he had taken a hint from the gateways of Carisbrook and Warwick Castles, for, generally speaking, those he had seen in the north were very bald, and even when entire could not warrant the fine description in Shakespeare, where the king is made to observe, (reading from the play)—

This castle hath a pleasant seat, the air  
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our gentle senses.

"Banquo remarks—

This guest of summer,  
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve  
By his loved masonry, that the heaven's breath  
Smells woolly here; no jutty, frieze, buttress,  
Nor cogne of vantage, but this bird hath made  
His pendent bed, and procreant cradle.  
Where they most breed and haunt,  
I have observed, the air is delicate.

"I was anxious to follow out our great dramatist in this scene, as the public attention has been drawn to the passage by a note of Sir Joshua Reynolds', wherein the beautiful contrast that the gentle and soft description forms, to the horrid and tumultuous scene of the murder that follows, is pointed out.

"The caldron scene, where a dark cave forms the back-ground, and the red fire was seen glaring under the boiling caldron, was very well managed, and formed quite a Rembrandt.

"What a fine picture," said Gibson, "Reynolds has made of this subject, and he has dressed *Macbeth* as he ought to be, like a warrior."

"Ah!" observed Capon, "after we have passed the scenes in review, we will go down into the green-room, where there is to be a slight rehearsal of the dresses and properties. You will see John Kemble as a Scottish noble, not dressed, as Garrick played the part, in a full court suit, with bag wig and dress sword. We have a picture of him and Mrs. Pritchard, by Zofany, as *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*, in the scene after the murder, attired in such strange guise. These things appear very absurd to us now, when we have seen the effects pictorial propriety has produced on our stage costume; but let me show you the great scene of the castle of Dunsinane. The view is taken from without the walls, where *Macbeth* exclaims:—

Hang out our banners on the outward walls,  
The cry is still, *They come*; our castle's strength  
Will laugh a sieve to scorn; here let them lie  
Till famine and the ague eat them up.

"Some people would have these lines read, 'on the outward walls the cry is still, They come'; but I coincide with Kemble's idea, and have painted the banners of the different Thanes hanging over the walls."

"What is become of that standard mentioned by Burns?—

Through hostile ranks and ruined gaps,  
Old Scotia's bloody lion bore.

"Ah! my dear Gibson, where should the royal standard be, but on the keep? There it flies, and shows the uncongenial brute rampant, on a field of gold. The whole plan of the castle I constructed from a survey of the indications of the walls of Dunsinane; and while I was so engaged, the old coter who assisted me said, that down in the vale below it was a fearful place for ague. Our great bard seems to have been acquainted with everything; but we will now go down to the stage, and see some of the dresses and decorations, after which we will have a rump-steak done in the painting room."

"On going down to the stage, we found Mr. Kemble in the full costume of a Highland chieftain, lecturing the witches for being too comic for the supernatural grandeur of their characters, and more fitted for the farces at Sadler's Wells, or the Surrey, than the classic dignity of the Theatre Royal of Covent Garden. The costumes he also objected to as being too much like the sign of Old Mother Red Cap at Camden Town, or the frontispiece to Mother Bunch's fairy tales. He after-

wards went through the ghost scene at the supper table, and proposed at one time to leave out the spectre of Banquo entirely, as it was completely unseen by the guests, and might have a more sublime effect. Some one mentioned that Fuseli, the great painter of witches and ghosts, thought the same."

The foregoing passage will give an idea of the manner in which Mr. Burnet's anecdotes and reminiscences are given. In case another edition of the book should be required, some corrections and omissions will be advisable. One good Scottish story Mr. Burnet spoils by adding a remark of his own. After speaking of Sir Robert Kerr Porter's panorama of the storming of Seringapatam, some notices of Sir David Baird are given, with the remark of his mother on hearing that the prisoners taken by Hyder Ali were chained two and two—"Lord help the lad that's chained to our Davey!" which Mr. Burnet tamely explains, by saying that "Baird was a strong man, and must have lifted his fellow-prisoner off his feet."

#### NOTICES.

*Architectural Studies in France.* By the Rev. J. L. Petit, M.A. With Illustrations from Drawings by the Author and P. H. De la Motte. G. Bell.

THIS is a very valuable and beautiful volume, and will be prized equally by the artist and archaeologist. The historical and descriptive notices are accurate in their matter, and presented in an agreeable style. The drawings speak for themselves, and their value as architectural studies is apparent. The cuts by M. de la Motte are from his own drawings, some of the engravings from Mr. Petit's drawings are filled up by the artist, but there are also many anastasies, which give the facsimiles of original sketches, taken in a rough but very effective style, and conveying faithful representations of the objects. For combining the general effect of such views with architectural details, the aid of photography will be more employed; but spirited and accurate sketches, such as these of Mr. Petit, will always convey great pleasure, and afford an exact information as non-professional students usually desire in architectural studies. The earliest era of the Gothic style are chiefly illustrated. Many archaeological and architectural questions are incidently discussed, and we refer those readers interested in these subjects to the work. A list of the best French publications bearing on architectural studies is given. There are between two and three hundred engravings, woodcuts, and anastatic illustrations. With all his veneration for Gothic architecture, the author cannot go nearly the length of Mr. Ruskin's idolatry, with the remarks on which we sympathize.

*Historical Pictures of the Middle Ages in Black and White.* By a Wandering Artist. Bentley. THIS is the second edition of a book published some years since, and which attracted notice among literary and historical students, though the plan of the work, and perhaps the subjects, were not such as to render wide popularity probable. The author had opportunity while in Switzerland of consulting various historical records not generally known or much used in the literary world; and adding to the materials derived from these the results of diligent study of learned authorities, such as the works of Müller, Sismondi, Gibbon, and Hallam, he has presented some striking pictures of particular events and scenes of mediæval history. The account of the city of Basle, the story of the Nuns' war, the war of the two abbots, of Bertha, Queen of Transjuran Burgundy, and the passage of the Grand Saint Bernard, are the heads under which the sketches are given. While the book will be perused with interest by the general reader, it contains many materials worthy of the notice of the historical student, details of the old customs and life of these regions and their people occurring in the narrative,

which are not usually met with in more formal records of the times. They are truly historical pictures, while the leading figures are biographical portraits, copied from ancient and authentic memoirs. In the present edition every effort has apparently been used to increase the accuracy and improve the effect of the literary essays. The frequent notes, and extracts from original sources of information, attest the diligence and fidelity of the author. The volumes are illustrated by lithographic engravings.

*Thomas Clarkson: a Monograph.* By James Elmes, author of 'Christopher Wren and his Times.' Blackader and Co.

MR. ELMES, the author of work on 'Sir Christopher Wren and his Times,' has in this biographical memoir of the venerable Thomas Clarkson presented an interesting sketch of the personal character and career of the philanthropist, and contributed valuable materials for the history of the abolition of the British slave-trade and slavery. Of Granville Sharpe and William Wilberforce, who with Clarkson formed the noble triumvirate of African philanthropists, the volume also contains notices. The book is one of interest from its subject, though the author's manner of treating it is not very attractive. Occasional faults can, however, readily be overlooked by those who are made aware of the circumstances in which it was written, the author's blindness rendering him dependent mainly on others for important parts of his literary labours.

*The Lost Prince: Facts intending to Prove the Identity of Louis XVII. of France, and the Rev. Eleazar Williams, Missionary among the Indians of North America.* By John Hanson. New York: Putnam. London: Low and Son.

We shall say no more about this book than that it contains most remarkable statements on a subject of much historical interest. That the Dauphin did not perish in France, but was taken to America by some of the officers of the royal household, is currently believed, and the proofs of his having been brought up in a remote village, and of his still living in the person of an American Episcopal clergyman, are here produced, with many details of circumstantial evidence. The special visit of the Prince Joinville to Mr. Williams, and various inquiries directed by authority from France, give additional colour to the truth of the claim. Mr. Hanson's excessive prolixity is unfavourable to the case which he seeks to make out, but the facts embodied in his book are such as to excite attention in Europe, as they have done already to a remarkable degree in the United States. The evidence of M. Fagnane, the portrait-painter to the Bourbon family, is one of the most striking points of the case.

*Gerstäcker's Travels.* Translated from the German of Frederic Gerstäcker. F. Nelson and Sons. We disapprove much of the practice, now too frequent, of publishers giving translations of foreign or editions of American books, without any prefatory notice explaining to what extent the original work is made use of, and with what omissions or alterations the English version appears. We have not the original of 'Gerstäcker's Travels' at hand to refer to, but a translation reviewed by us last year ('L. G.' 1853, p. 377), contained much matter that we do not find in the volume before us. The object of the present editor may be to select only those parts of the narrative of the author's journey round the world relating to South America and California, but this ought to have been stated in an explanatory notice of the book and its author. Otherwise, the volume is in itself complete, and relates to countries of great interest, the descriptions of which are given with intelligence and spirit. The volume forms one of a series of works published under the title of Nelson's Modern Library.

*Algeria: The Topography and History, Political, Social, and Natural, of French Africa.* By John Reynell Morell. N. Cooke.

The author of this volume has chiefly collected his materials from the best and most recent French works on Algeria, and presents to the English reader a compilation, copious and well arranged, from which much information as to the history and

condition of the colony will be gathered. The book is illustrated with numerous wood cuts, and a map of the French possessions in Africa is prefixed to the volume.

#### SUMMARY.

THE second volume of the new edition of the *Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay* (Hurst and Blackett) contains the memorials of years 1781-1786, and is illustrated with a portrait of Mrs. Thrale, after Sir Joshua Reynolds' picture. In the 'Travellers' Library' (Longman and Co.), the second part of the cheap reprint of *Macaulay's Critical and Historical Essays* contains the conclusion of the review of Robert Montgomery's poems, and the essays on Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress,' 'On the Civil Disabilities of the Jews,' 'Moore's Byron,' 'Boswell's Johnson, Hampden, and Burleigh.' The third volume of the new edition of the *Life and Memoirs of Dr. Chalmers*, by his Son-in-law, Dr. Hanna (Constable and Co.), is issued. Another volume will complete the work, which in its present form reaches an increased circle of readers. We still wish that the biographer would prepare a briefer memoir of such as might interest and influence those to whom the name of Chalmers is at present barely known.

In Orr's Household Handbooks, Number 7 contains Part Second of *Household Medicine and Surgery* (W. and S. Orr), with hints and directions for sick-room management, cooking for invalids, and other kindred subjects. *Papery in the First Century; or, the Second Epistle General of St. Boniface* (Trübner and Co.) intended to show the errors of Romanists and the arrogance of the Papacy. *The Sure Judgment of God on the Rich for the Neglect of the Poor*, by the Rev. Charles Gutch, M.A. (Rivingtons), a Sermon preached at Leeds soon after a boiler explosion, by which eight lives were lost. The minister very properly takes the opportunity of instructing his hearers on the subjects naturally suggested by such a visitation; and in a letter addressed to the owner of the mill, boldly and faithfully remonstrates with him on the moral condition of his workers and overseers, as being unhappily distinguished by great profligacy. If such things go on in factories, it is the duty of the legislature to regulate other matters than merely the hours of working. *An Apology for Hebrew Prophecy*, by Omicron (Holyoake), attempts to identify Christianity with democracy; but the historical ignorance and presumptuous infidelity of the writer destroy the effect of his arguments on points on which there are some grounds for fair discussion and plausible statement. The book is dedicated to the shade of Montaigne, for whose name the writer professes "a reverence that little hails on this side idolatry." It is a relief to turn from such a work to George Cruikshank's edition of *The History of Jack and the Bean Stalk* (Bogue), with six clever illustrations.

At a reduced price are published *Novello's Octavo Edition of Haydn's Creation, and of Handel's Messiah, Judas Maccabaeus, and Samson* (J. A. Novello). Mr. Novello deserves high praise for having first met the growing taste for public performances of sacred music by supplying books that might be used by the audience as well as the performers of oratorios. The spirited experiment was successful, and has been followed by other publishers, but Mr. Novello's editions are still the cheapest, and are at the same time of sterling value as musical works. The third part of *Rihner's Practical Treatise on Musical Composition* (Longman and Co.) is devoted to imitation, fugue, and canon, which subjects are treated in a manner at once scientific and practical. It is a most valuable work to the musical student and composer.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adams's (H. C.) Greek Text of the Gospels, Part 1, 2s. 6d.  
Austin Mary's Poems, square cloth, 1s. 6d.  
Bailey's (J. P.) Festus, 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.  
Bible's (H.) Scenes in the Caribbean Sea, 18mo, cloth, 2s.  
Boucher's Manna in the House: St. John, 12mo, cloth, 6s.

Chalmers's (Dr.) Memoir, Vol. 2, crown 8vo, cloth, 6s. 2 vols., crown 8vo, cloth, 12s.  
Chalybaeus's Historical Survey of Speculative Philosophy, 8s. 6d.  
Clarkson (T.) His Life and Labours, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Companions of My Solitude, new edition, 8vo, 3s. 6d.  
Correggio: a Tragedy, by A. Oehlenschläger, 8vo, 3s. 6d.  
Cree's (Rev. E. D.) Threshold of the Sanctuary, 18mo, 2s.  
Domestic Commentary, Vol. 3, Isaiah to Malachi, 12s.  
Donaldson's Three Treacherous Dealers, 8vo, 2s. 6d.  
Ferguson's (R.) Consecrated Heights, 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.  
Godwin's (C. G.) Poetical Works Illustrated, 4to, 21s.  
Great (A) Mystery, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Gurnall's (W.) Collection of Rare Jewels, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Hamilton's (Rev. A.) Sermons for Holy Week, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
Hiley's (R.) Progressive Latin Exercises, 12mo, cloth, 2s.  
Howell's Memoir by Morgan, 12mo, cloth, 5s.  
Humphries's (Dr. E. H.) Exercitations Iambicae, 5s. 6d.  
Innes (J. C.) Week with Christ, 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
Invalid's (The) Offering, 12mo, cloth, 2s.

King's Meditations from St. Chrysostom, 2nd edition, 2s.  
Lord's History of the Policy of Church of Rome in Ireland, 18s.  
Nackay's Thoughts Redeemed, square cloth, 3s. 6d.  
National Illustrated Library, Vol. 38: Sir W. Raleigh, 2s. 6d.  
Nettleton and His Labours, by B. Tyler, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
Prestes Privatus in Studioribus Graham Collector, &c., 6s.  
Rambles and Recollections of a Fly Fisher, post 8vo, 7s.  
Sherwood's (Mrs.) Life, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.  
Tennyson's (F.) Days and Hours, 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
Thucydides, Book 6, from the Text of Bekker, 8vo, 7s. 6d.  
Watkins's Directory, 1854, March edition, 8vo, cloth, 19s. 6d.  
West's (C.) Ulceration of the Os Uteri, 8vo, cloth, 5s.

#### PROFESSOR WILSON OF EDINBURGH.

THE Scottish papers announce the death, at Edinburgh, on Monday, in his 69th year, of John Wilson, late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, and better known in the literary world as the editor of 'Blackwood's Magazine.' Whose heart has not beat often, in warm sympathy, with the genial spirit of Christopher North, and admired the taste and genius of the author of the 'Lights and Shadows of Scottish Character'? In his last years, he displayed the character which Sir Walter Scott described, when he wrote long ago to Joanna Baillie, of young Wilson, saying, "he is excellent, warm-hearted, and enthusiastic, something too much, perhaps, of the latter quality, placing him among the list of originals." John Wilson was a native of Paisley, studied first at the University of Glasgow, in his eighteenth year was entered as a gentleman commoner of Magdalen College, Oxford, and afterwards proceeded to Edinburgh, to prepare for the Scottish bar; but his lively temperament and irregular genius pointed to literature rather than law as his occupation. An early admiration of Wordsworth, and delight in the scenery of Cumberland, led him to take up his residence in that district, where he became the proprietor of Elleray; and he was soon known to every visitor as 'the admiral of the lakes.' In boating and in all manly and athletic sports he was an adept; and many a tradition of his feats of agility, strength, and daring, is still current. In the literary world he first became generally known as the author of the poem, 'The Isle of Palms,' and of the pathetic tale, 'The Trials of Margaret Lindsay,' as well as of the sketches of Scottish character, already referred to. The manner in which he saw, woed, and won his wife was quite in keeping with his romantic and original character. Seeing, among a party visiting the lakes, a lady whose appearance struck him, he found out at what inn they were going to stay; and, inducing the landlord to allow him to act as waiter, he contrived to have an opportunity of seeing more of the object of his admiration, and then of declaring his passion. The result was in every way more auspicious than so irregular an introduction might have produced. When 'Blackwood's Magazine' was projected he was offered the editorship, and it was chiefly through his able management, and his own admirable and agreeable writing, that the journal obtained a world-wide reputation. On the chair of Moral Philosophy being vacant, on the death of Dr. Thomas Brown, he appeared as a candidate, warmly supported by Scott and other Edinburgh *literati*, and in his conduct of the class for above thirty years he proved a worthy successor of Dugald Stewart and of Thomas Brown. Those who attended his lectures will never forget the eloquence and genius with which he enlivened the didactic discourses of the class, and the happy combination of literature with

philosophy which characterised his lectures. As a poet, Wilson was not of the highest order, his genius and fancy not being tempered by the chasteness of style and refinement of thought necessary for classical fame. His prose writings are more likely to enjoy lasting reputation, from the graphic pictures they give of the life and manners of his native country. Unfortunately some of his happiest efforts are mixed up, as in the papers of the *Noctes Ambrosianæ*, with sallies of a lighter kind, scarcely deserving more than passing popularity. For two or three years past, he was disabled by ill health; and an attack of paralysis prevented his discharging his literary or professional duties. In the society of the northern capital he will be long and sadly missed. The accounts of his eccentricity of manners and appearance have been much exaggerated. He had no great respect for the commonplace conventionalities of artificial life, nor had he any reverence for tailors and masters of ceremonies; but the statements about his buttonless shirts, his threadbare coats, and tattered academic robes, are pictorial fictions. With all his apparent eccentricity, he had sound judgment and a genial kindly heart; and in his warm love, especially in his latter years, of all that was generous and good and sacred, and his sincere affection for Dr. Chalmers and others of his colleagues most eminent for piety and active philanthropy, he gave proof of a religious principle far deeper than any mere sentimental feeling or philosophical persuasion could have inspired. In his death those who knew him best will feel that one of the great and good men of our time has passed away.

## SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

ONE by one, like the successive productions of the natural seasons which they adorn and illustrate, the art exhibitions are unfolding their stores as the year advances, and the reappearance of the British artists in their old established locality is one of the most familiar features in this gradual development. In the present instance it will be found that the gallery maintains its established character.

With almost a single exception, no novelty occurs to raise the ordinary standard, or to vary the common effect. Change of details does but produce a similarity of result; faces, groups, and scenes look down from the wall with the air of old friends, or of expectant hosts. Let us proceed to the particulars of the entertainment which this year's assemblage has provided for its guests. In the first rank come Mr. Hurlstone's productions, founded on traditions and actual study of Spanish styles, costumes, and scenery. *The Last Sigh of the Moor* (178) is the most elevated and classical of these subjects. The story is well told. Imperial will, if not power, reigns in the attitude and the features of the Sultana, whilst the passing shade of weakness on the countenance of Boabdil is as delicate as the former is forcible. Here is a dramatic contrast of the best kind; it forms the prevailing tone of the composition, round which every other detail arranges itself in appropriate subordination. The unity of the thought is preserved in the remaining figure, and the result is like the sudden unmasking of a hidden passion—decisive and irresistible. The *Moorish Peasant Girl* (117) is a study of expression and costume only, but is interesting for its brilliancy and novelty. *A Jewess of Barbary* (300) comes below the last-mentioned in excellence. Here are no warm tones to reconcile the eye to a decided distinctness of colour. This treatment may be either an intentional imitation or an involuntary result of study of the Spanish school, but being brought here into harsh prominence by clear outlines and cold grey tints, it exhibits mere defects of subject, uncounteracted by pictorial skill. Now Murillo and Rembrandt have not neglected this. The one has dignified the filth of his mendicants by the splendours of warm colour; the other has shed over the unwashed wrinkles of a Jew or a burgomaster the enchantment of his light and shade. One or other of these modes is indis-

pensable. Mr. Hurlstone's remaining contributions are portraits. That of *Miss Wiles* (246) is firm and unaffected, but the *Children* (259 and 269), particularly the boy, have a strained expression, inappropriate to their age. A too mature intelligence in childish features must always be repellent.

The startling piece of novelty in the Exhibition, above referred to, will at once be recognised in Mr. Pettitt's remarkable composition, *The Golden Image* (227). A large expanse of canvas filled with architectural elevations and pavements of unusual symmetry, like the alternations of mosaic, or the regular recurrences of a machine-stamped pattern, conveys an effect which different spectators will view with different eyes. To many it will seem but an attempt to expand an originally simple idea into complexity by the common process of multiplication; or an arithmetician might suggest, that by taking the square-root of these rectangular temples, floors, and rows of Assyrians, a result might be obtained sufficient for all useful purposes. But we would rather suppose that a conventional rendering of the formal ceremonies of Chaldaea is intended, than set down this strange production to mere poverty of invention, a fault which former works of Mr. Pettitt have not displayed. A nation of astronomers may be supposed to have carried geometrical tastes into their forms of worship; or a vast accumulation of similar types may be thought to accord with their ideas of the infinite and supreme; but upon any hypothesis, the true interpretation of the vision is much needed by the uninitiated.

Widely different is the small subject called *A Spring Evening on the Loother, Cumberland* (58). This has, at first sight, a photographic coldness about it; but is finished with a care, truthfulness, and simplicity, which gradually win admiration.

Mr. Baxter's heads are this year upon a somewhat larger scale than on former occasions. *La Pensée* (48) well deserves a place of prominence; though the creaminess of complexion hardly consists with the health and vigour of nature. The *Portrait of a Lady* (149), which is far less elaborately composed, and has fewer artificial charms, gains upon the former in taste and simplicity.

Of Mr. Boddington's landscapes, nine in number, it is sufficient to say they exhibit all that practical skill, and careful elaboration of particular effects, for which his works are always distinguished.

Mr. Woolmer again charms the fancy with scenes of fairy light, profuse foliage, and luxurious grouping of figures. Of these, *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp* (79), more than any other, combines his various powers; *The Princess* (23) is a scene of indoor magnificence, drawn from the same source of inspiration; *The Well in the Wood* (72), and *The Shepherd* (270), are rich and luxuriant situations; where the possibilities of existence are not flagrantly violated; but the introduction of a church tower in the background of *Spring* (510) fixes the locality too strongly to this island, and renders the light costume of the lovers at least inconsistent with the season and the climate. If it be considered that *Windsor, time of Charles II.* (171), is too vaguely sketched to be deserving of an historical name, it must be owned that the *Thought from Boccaccio* (328) is a subject admirably adapted to this romantic style, which conveys to perfection the air of their "voluptuous day."

Amongst the landscape painters Mr. Wilson, jun., whilst he exhibits a series not marked by much novelty, in a style which has been long familiar, (but of which the *Entrance of Boulogne Harbour* (77) is a noble specimen,) breaks into a totally different class of effects in his *Morning after a Wreck* (274). This is a scene full of imagination; the tints of the sea, somewhat suggestive of chocolate with the cream in it, are probably due to the colouring matter of the wave-washed cliffs, or may be a faithful rendering of some strange appearance of nature, seldom revealed even to the vigilant eye of the painter.

In the same class of art, though of larger dimensions, comes Mr. Clint's painting of *Scarborough*

(92). A distant view of this subject produces a better effect than close inspection, where the waves have a solidity of substance and frothiness of colour which detract strongly from their natural appearance.

Mr. Pyne has contributed two very important landscapes, which have all the superficial gloss and finery of the scene-painting style about them, along with a nicety and care of details which will bear a thorough investigation, and gratify the sense throughout. But this exquisite style, though faultless as to its pleasure-giving qualities, suffers from weakness, particularly in the foregrounds, and a little consideration will show that notwithstanding the beautiful harmony of the whole, the pink trees in the *View of Berne* (118) are wholly conventional, and the *View in Italy* (348), again, abounds in tints, which however delicately harmonious and gracefully suggestive, were never seen in nature. Yet who can withhold the character of high and accomplished art from compositions of such taste and variety?

The British artists have acquired an ally of some power in Mr. Fortt. The group entitled *Expectation* (101) is firm and clear as to textures, and if not very eloquent, is at least not wanting in the sufficient amount of animation which is necessary to give life to the wearers of scarlet bodices and Neapolitan head-dresses. An architectural scene, *The Capitol, &c., Rome* (327), is very unequal; remarkably good in parts, as in the colour of the walls which face the spectator; whilst the meagreness of detail elsewhere sinks below mediocrity. The subject seems to have been hastily finished. *Voice and Verse* (553) is evidently a study from the Italian school.

Besides Mr. Pettitt, above mentioned, the only other new member of the Society is Mr. W. W. Gosling, whose study of timber and foliage (39) commands immediate notice. It combines a care and fidelity with a force of objective rendering which will always make their way with the general public, who are little scrupulous about refinements, when they see what they know, well drawn and strongly coloured. But the power of this study as to depth and relief is very noticeable, and shows a dexterity and resource which is in the highest degree satisfactory. *A Woodland Stream* (301) is in the same excellent manner.

Mr. Wainwright's studies of sunset upon sands are in his usual style. The subject (66) has a rich poetical feeling about it.

Of Mr. Salter's *Judith* (110) we can only say we would gladly pass it over in silence, did not its glaring proportions intrude themselves before the eye, and inspire unmitigated horror alike of the subject, and its treatment. Mr. Cole has contributed a number of landscapes of the usual character, not deficient in gaiety or variety. In the *Ehrenberg on the Nahe* (10), a rock clothed with vineyards and crowned with the stronghold of Franz of Sickengen, is painted with unusual firmness and delicacy; *Cochem on the Moselle* (483) possesses similar merits. A startling effect of clouds is given in Mr. Tennant's subject *Jersey Coast* (472), almost bordering on the supernatural.

But to pass briefly to the large class of exhibitors not in the society. A small scene relating *How it chanced that the Loin of Beef came to be Sir Loin* (20), by R. W. Buss, is a remarkably spirited sketch; if not taken too large, and a tendency to theatrical effect be repressed, it will succeed well in a large picture. *Norah* (24), by Miss Andrade, though slight, has an excellent effect. An elegant *Juliet* (40), by J. S. Collins, is equally noticeable. Having had occasion to animadvert upon the bad taste of some former works of Mrs. C. Smith, we are bound to bear testimony to the great improvement manifest in the *Fortune-Teller* (41), which has equal force and truth with her earlier productions, without a like amount of vulgarity. *A Lane Scene* (51), by Mrs. C. Jayne, is a beautiful bit of green foliage, painted with an accuracy and firmness that leave nothing to desire in these respects.

Mr. Wood's architecture (82, 199, and 412), and Mr. and Mrs. Duffield's fruit, claim their usual tribute of praise; whilst Mr. Buckner's imposing

portrait (119), though gifted with that air of distinction which always attends his facile pencil, is yet marked by a haste and carelessness which have a very damaging effect upon his works.

A clever study of light and shade is to be seen in *The Turnip Lantern* (129). Mr. Armfield's single animal subject is again excellent, *The Poachers* (137). Mr. W. D. Kennedy's studies in the school of Etty are far in advance of the general style of such attempts; but whilst *Gaîté* (333) sacrifices every consideration to that of the academical study of some very questionable forms of beauty, however sanctioned by the taste of the departed painter, *La Souvenir* (392) must be owned to possess no inconsiderable share of his powerful treatment.

A subject of no particular merit, and of flashy execution, entitled *Dalila asking Forgiveness of Samson* (324), by H. Tiffin, is only mentioned here, as having been already exhibited in the British Institution of 1852; whereby strict condition prescribed by the British artists (see their special notice) has in one instance at least been violated.

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WE have again to protest against the injustice of publishing the returns of Newspaper Stamps, for the sake of showing the comparative circulation of the London Journals, without some mark to distinguish those of a purely literary character whose circulation is chiefly *unstamped*. It is rather unfair even towards newspapers, whose circulation is wholly stamped, to give publicity to their actual returns for the stronger to make use of against the weaker, and Mr. Gladstone intimated as much in the House of Commons when forced reluctantly to grant the Returns; but to include the literary papers, whose circulation is chiefly *unstamped*, in such a manner as to lead the public to believe that their circulation corresponds with their use of stamps, is a positive injustice: and we only regret that *The Times* should have been so thoughtless as to give publicity to its own mighty proportions, without affording its weaker contemporaries of the pen the common advantage of fair play. In one of the pages of our advertisements we have exposed with tolerable clearness how that our own stamped circulation, during a time of actual increase, is made to appear alarmingly diminished; and we have also shown that we never allow our paper to be sent folded up through the post, when it can be delivered through the bookseller or newsvender in better condition at a less price.

The report of the Governors of the Wellington College has been published, and is altogether a most satisfactory document. With regard to the funds subscribed, the proposed net capital was fixed at a minimum of 100,000*l.* The gross amount of subscriptions on the list is 105,760*l.*, of which only 4500*l.* remain unpaid, besides 6500*l.* expected to be remitted from India. There is every prospect of the institution possessing at once the capital projected. To the building and fitting up of the College 20,000*l.* are to be devoted, leaving for the endowment a capital of 80,000*l.* Estimating the product of this sum at 3*1/2* per cent., or 2800*l.* per annum, and adding 150*l.* of promised annual subscriptions, the annual income would be 2950*l.* The expense of sixty boys, including maintenance, clothing, and all costs, in addition to education, is calculated at 3600*l.* It is proposed that the school be divided into three classes—boys of the first, to pay 10*l.* a-year each; of the second, to pay 15*l.*; and of the third, to pay 20*l.* a-year. This would yield 900*l.* a-year, which, added to the amount from interest of capital and subscriptions, affords the annual income of 3850*l.*; the expenditure being 3600*l.* The balance of 250*l.* is very small for extra expenses of officials and other contingencies, but it is believed that a fourth class of forty boys, at an annual payment of 30*l.*, might at once be undertaken, which would give 1200*l.*, and deducting the expenses of 920*l.* the additional surplus would be 280*l.*, or in all 530*l.* The latter class might include boys, the sons of officers although not orphans, for whom the foundation is primarily intended. The proposed arrangements

for management of the institution seem to be liberal and judicious. The only points to which we feel disposed to refer are those which declare the subjects of instruction to be—1st, What is usually understood by a good English education; 2nd, Those branches of scientific knowledge which have a special application to the arts, commerce, and industry of the country; 3rd, The modern languages. It is provided that the religious instruction be in accordance with the doctrines and principles of the Church of England, to which the head-master must belong. It is also provided that either the head-master or one of the under-masters be in holy orders, and charged especially with the religious instruction of the boys. The head-master is to be elected by the governors, and the under-master by the head-master, subject to the approval of the governors. If these arrangements are carried out with a prudence at all corresponding to the wisdom with which they have been planned, there is every prospect of the Wellington College becoming an institution of truly national value and importance. Much will depend on the first appointments of the officers and masters.

A literary association of a peculiar and somewhat novel character is inviting public notice, under the name of the Neophyte Writers' Society. The prospectus sets forth the objects and plan of the institution. It is designed as "an academy of literary art, in which the genius, talent, and taste of our more advanced neophyte literati might be fostered and matured." "The society, which is composed generally of student-artists in literature, may include aspirants after professional literary status, as well as scholars who cultivate literature as an auxiliary power in the performance of social or individual duties." The conditions of fellowship are to be "decided literary taste, and sufficient literary ability, of which the ordinary council must first be satisfied, either by perusal of trial papers, or from the recommendation of reliable judges, before candidates for fellowship can be admitted." Notices are also given in the prospectus of the regulations for electing office-bearers, and for the proceedings of the various groups of members. The society is intended to include fellows in all parts of the country, sections of six members being formed in each locality, each section electing a director to represent it in ordinary council. We do not see how all this complicated organization is to serve any better purpose than the private and local mutual improvement societies which young men of literary taste are now in the habit of forming. The publication of an annual by the members is the only project that promises to effect some unity of feeling and of labour among scattered associates. The scheme seems to be the offspring of youthful enthusiasm; but without more knowledge of the projectors and their designs, we have no wish to speak discouragingly of an institution which aspires to prove "a gymnasium for stunted talent, and an hospital for half-stifled genius." Let us whisper at the same time our opinion that it would be often a merciful relief to readers, and still more to critics, if stunted talent and half-stifled genius, especially of the poetical kind, were allowed quietly to expire. Of mental improvement and literary culture there cannot be too much, we only fear that a tendency to rush prematurely into print will, we fear, be encouraged by such a society as this of the Neophyte Writers.

The Abbé Moigno, the well-known *savant* of Paris, has written to the editor of the 'Pays' to say that the new comet of Mr. Hind was first seen in that city by a poor man who picks up a precarious livelihood by stationing himself in the Place du Carrousel with a telescope for the accommodation of workmen, soldiers, grisettes, and others of the lower orders astronomically inclined. This man, it seems, no sooner saw the comet than he drew a rude representation of it in chalk on the pavement in order to attract the curiosity of the public. On hearing of his discovery two days after, M. Moigno questioned him, and then hurried off to the observatory; but though the comet had not been seen there by M. Leverrier and his staff, they had received intelligence of it from Cherbourg and other

places. M. Moigno adds, that it was in the 'Literary Gazette,' which reached him on Sunday, that he first read a detailed account of the heavenly visitant; and that in the evening of that day he had the pleasure of contemplating it through a friend's telescope at a village a few miles from Paris. How is it that, in all the recent discoveries in the heavens, the Paris Observatory seems to have been unaccountably behindhand? Some months ago, a planet was discovered by an amateur astronomer from his garret in a back street, and the Observatory had no idea of its existence until he told them. A comet is now discovered at London, and is remarked at other places; but the first person who sees it in Paris is,—not one of the official astronomers, but a poor man who can neither read nor write, and who shows the stars for halfpence.

The congress of the learned societies of France has just been brought to a close. Its concluding deliberations were of the same character as those of the beginning—namely, on subjects of practical utility. One of these subjects has lately excited great attention—the acclimatization of useful plants and animals. It was stated that, from what has already been done and what is now doing, there is every reason to expect that several sorts of vegetables, fruits, plants, birds, fish, and animals hitherto confined to Asiatic or American countries, will before long become completely naturalized in France, and will in time form an important part of the people's food, or will add to the conveniences or pleasures of life. It is much to be desired that in our own country more serious and practical attention should be turned to this matter. In the course of the sittings of the congress it was stated that some of the scientific societies of England have adopted the practice of exchanging their publications for those of similar societies in France, and an earnest hope was expressed that it will become general, not only in this country, but all over the Continent. There is no doubt that constant intercommunication between the numerous scientific bodies of Europe would be of considerable advantage to all, and fortunately, in these railway and cheap postage days, it can be obtained at a very moderate expense.

The appointment of a photographer to accompany the English expeditionary army has been spoken of as an extraordinary mark of attention to scientific objects on the part of our authorities. In England such attention to science may cause surprise and call for honourable record. But in France scientific adjuncts of military enterprise are always provided on a scale worthy of the national encouragement given to such pursuits. Even in the days of the first Republic this was not neglected. When Napoleon went to Egypt, as the General of the Directory in 1798, he carried with him a great number of learned and scientific men. He was a Member of the Institute of France, and after the conquest of Italy and the treaty of Campo Formio, it seemed to be his ambition to associate with his learned brethren, and he accordingly attended their meetings with much seeming modesty. He planned an Egyptian Institute, and took with him savants, engineers, geographers, artists, and workmen of every description. The most distinguished men of the age embarked on this enterprise; among them were the great mathematicians and chemists, Monge, Berthollet, Fournier, Dolomieu; and the skilful physicians and surgeons, Desgenettes, Larray, and Dubois. The splendid work of Denon, which gave to Europe engravings of the gigantic monuments of Upper Egypt, is well known; the number of these philosophers and artists exceeded a hundred.

The arrangements for lectures, at the Royal Institution, after Easter, are as follows:—Seven lectures on Ebullition, Combustion, and other Phenomena of Heat. By Professor Tyndall, F.R.S.—Seven Lectures on Botany. By M. T. Masters, Esq., of the Feilding Herbarium, Oxford; and seven lectures on Education. 1. Rev. Dr. Whewell, F.R.S., on the Influence of the History of Science upon Intellectual Education. 2. Professor Faraday, D.C.L., F.R.S., Observations on Mental Education. 3. Dr. R. G. Latham, F.R.S.,

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on the Importance of the Study of Language as a branch of Education for all Classes. 4. Dr. Dauweny, F.R.S., on the Importance of the Study of Chemistry as a branch of Education for all Classes. 5. Professor Tyndall, F.R.S., on the Importance of the Study of Physics as a branch of Education for all Classes. 6. J. Paget, Esq., F.R.S., on the Importance of the Study of Physiology as a branch of Education for all Classes. 7. Dr. Hodgson, on the Importance of the Study of Economic Science as a branch of Education for all Classes. The Friday evening lectures will probably be delivered by Professor E. Forbes, Dr. H. M. Noad, T. H. Huxley, Esq., Professor Tyndall, B. C. Brodie, Esq., Dr. E. Frankland, and Professor Faraday.

Mr. Ewart's Bill on Public Libraries and Museums, the object of which was to extend the operation of the act of 1850, has been thrown out this week in the House of Commons by a vote of 88 to 85. The Government opposed the bill on the ground that, although the working of the former act was so far successful, sufficient time had not elapsed to afford experience for further legislation. Mr. Ewart also proposed that arrangements should be made for establishing public libraries independently of the local rate-payers, whose spontaneous self-taxation is at present required for originating such institutions. It was argued that this clause might be altered in committee, but the majority conceived that a question of principle was involved, and that there was no immediate call for the bill being pressed.

Letters from Dr. Vogel, dated November 16, 1853, announce his safe arrival to within seventeen days' journey of Lake Tsad. The last portion of his journey had been very difficult, on account of the utter barrenness of the country traversed, but complete success had attended the travellers; they had reached a more fertile region, and were hastening onwards towards the shores of that fine central lake, on the waters of which the British flag may even now be seen, thanks to the energy and zeal of their predecessors. Thus far all had gone well. The Bornuese prince, the leader and protector of the caravan, had now the full esteem and confidence of the travellers, and the Tibbus also, through whose country their route lies, had received them kindly, and their chief had entered into satisfactory arrangements with Dr. Vogel for the transmission of his future letters from Lake Tsad.

The journals of Mons in Belgium record the discovery at Elonges near that place of some Roman ruins which appear curious. It is, however, not yet known, it is said, whether they are the remains of a fortified camp, of baths, or of a vast piscina. What, however, is certain, is, that the Romans were for a long time established at Elonges, and it is asserted by the Belgians that the inhabitants of that village who have intermarried amongst themselves preserve to this day, in a remarkable degree, the Roman features and bearing. Elonges was a military station of considerable importance in the Gallic wars.

The Rev. R. Scott, known to literature chiefly as author, along with Mr. Riddell, of the 'Greek Lexicon,' has been elected to the vacant office of Master of Balliol, Oxford. Mr. Scott has a distinguished name as a scholar, and will doubtless strive to sustain the high position held by Balliol College as a seat of classical learning.

The Italian Opera opened on Saturday with *Guillaume Tell*; cast much as last season, except that a new artiste made her *début* in the person of Mlle. Marai. Her voice is somewhat feeble, and the impression left upon the audience was not altogether favourable. Ronconi returns to us especially rich and florid in his own admirable *piano and forte* style of singing, and achieved new honours on Thursday, in Verdi's *Ernani*. Mlle. Bosio made her appearance in this opera. Her tones, powerful and true to a marvel, ripen with time. Her first air was quite a triumph of graceful vocalization, and the finale of the third act, with Bosio, Ronconi, Tamberlik, and Susini, was most vociferously encored, though the encore was not responded to without tedious reluctance.

The second concert of the New Philharmonic Society, at St. Martin's Hall, on Wednesday evening, was in every respect of a high order. The selection of music in the programme was varied and good, and the performances, vocal and instrumental, were of unusual excellence. The chief points of the evening were the performance of Mendelssohn's concerto for violin and orchestra, of Beethoven's eighth symphony, of Mendelssohn's serenade and rondo for pianoforte and orchestra, and the duet of *Valentine and Marel*, from the *Huguenots*, by Herr Formes and Madame Caradori. The violin concerto was given with admirable effect, the playing of Herr Ernst being all that could be desired for interpreting Mendelssohn's classical work. In the second part of the concert there was more scope for displaying his astonishing command of his instrument in a fantasia on Hungarian airs. In some parts of this performance marvellous skill was shown without the eccentricity which has often been the chief characteristic of distinguished violinist. Herr Ernst rarely if ever seeks to excite surprise at the expense of good taste. The playing of Mdlle. Graener in Mendelssohn's pianoforte piece was spirited and correct, and sustained her reputation as an able and accomplished pianist. Herr Formes was in fine voice, and the scene from the *Huguenots* was finely given. Madame Caradori's singing is most effective, and would be even more so if she exerted more care in regulating the tones of her powerful voice. A new singer, Mdlle. Sedlatzek, a clear and pleasing soprano, was very successful with Mozart's fine air, *Parto ma tu ben*. A new overture by Herr Lindpaintner, *Der Handthafte Prince*, was most favourably received. Some of the passages towards the close are striking and original. Beethoven's symphony could not have been given with finer effect, the orchestra of the New Philharmonic Society possessing a power and training never surpassed in this country. Herr Lindpaintner deserves the warmest commendations for his energetic and judicious services as conductor. The programme commenced with Mr. Sterndale Bennett's overture, *The Naiades*, and closed with Auber's *Massaniello*. Altogether this concert was such as will go far to establish the reputation of the Society for its performances of musical works at once popular and classical.

The musical festival at Exeter Hall, on Wednesday evening, for the benefit of the widows and children of the workmen killed by the accident at the Crystal Palace, was very successful, and as the room was filled we hope that the proceeds are satisfactory. A programme of extraordinary length promised varied and good entertainment, nor was the audience disappointed, when among the performers were Herr Ernst and Herr Sommer, and when favourite pieces were sung by Madame Clara Novello, Madame Rita Favanti, Mrs. Newton Frodsham, Miss Alleyne, and by Messrs. Sims Reeves, Augustus Braham, and other eminent vocalists.

The musical week at Paris, has presented little worthy of remark. At the Italian Theatre Rossini's *Otello* has been produced, with Madame Frezzolini and Mario, (as *Desdemona* and the *Moor*), and a new tenor, named Baraldi, who was favourably received. At the other houses there has been no novelty. Concerts continue the order of the day, but the most popular concert givers are already on the wing for London. In the theatrical way it may be mentioned that the authors and managers of the minor theatres are preparing to *exploiter*, in grand style, the Eastern war and the English and French alliance. All the incidents of the war, past, present, and to come, are to be dramatised; the Russians are to be mercilessly drubbed, and the *gloire* and *fraternité* of the two nations are to be becomingly celebrated amidst blazes of Bengal fire.

Rossini has communicated to the musical journals of the Continent the copy of a letter recently addressed by him to a Hungarian nobleman in reply to a request to write an opera specially for Hungary. He says that his determination to write no more is not to be shaken, and he intimates that his principal reason for adhering to it is, that he does not approve of the present popular taste in

musical matters—a taste to which he declares he cannot and will not minister. We confess we do not understand exactly what the great *maestro* means, for it is strange that he should blame the taste of the day when it expresses unbounded admiration of his works, and considers his long silence, in the full maturity of his powers, as a public calamity.

The "Kolner Manner Gesang Verein," or Cologne Choral Society, are again engaged by Mr. Mitchell for eight concerts in London, which will be commenced early next month. The success of this Society last year at the Hanover-square Rooms will be remembered with pleasure, and their re-appearance this season will no doubt be cordially welcomed.

A new opera, by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, is in preparation. It is called *Chiara*. Liszt is to superintend the production of it, but it is not stated where it is to be first performed.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

GEOLICAL.—March 22nd.—Prof. E. Forbes, President, in the chair. F. J. Bigg, Esq., S. Minton, Esq., E. O'Riley, Esq., and S. H. Beckles, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read. 1. 'On the Geology of some parts of Madeira,' by Sir C. Lyell, F.G.S. During a stay of two months at Madeira, Sir Charles Lyell has had the opportunity of making a careful examination of a considerable portion of the island, and extracts from Sir Charles's letters to Mr. L. Horner, F.G.S., read at this evening meeting, contained some very interesting observations on the geological structure of Madeira and the neighbouring islands. Sir Charles agrees with Mr. Smith, of Jordan Hill, in attributing a sub-aerial origin to the great mass of the volcanic rocks of Madeira. The earlier volcanic rocks were submarine, and are associated with marine deposits in the northern parts of the island, which are elevated to the height of at least 1200 feet above the sea. Subsequently to these, a long and complicated series of volcanic eruptions in the open air built up the island. Before half the island was formed, it was clad with vegetation, as evidenced by a layer of fossil leaves, both of ferns and of dicotyledonous plants, lately discovered by Sir Charles, beneath basalt in the Jorge ravine, in the north of the island. The plant bed and beds of river-rolled pebbles underlie volcanic beds which have been variously disturbed by subterranean movements. Sir Charles points out the relative ages of several of the great groups of volcanic rocks; thus, the Funchal Picos, twenty or more cones in number, with 800 feet thickness of tuft and basalt, are posterior to the inclined Cape Giram beds (West of Funchal); and the Porto da Cruz trachytes and tuft, 900 feet thick, on the northern coast, are newer than the central cones of the island, and the basalt currents which flowed from them, and which were previously tilted and eroded. Sir Charles described the structure of the rocks seen in many of the inland ravines and the sea-cliffs; and particularly noticed the fine cliff-section of igneous rocks at Cape Giram, 1600 feet high, with 120 dykes: also an interesting section of a volcanic cone exposed by the sea at Canical, near the eastern extremity of the island, and the sand-dunes, full of land shells, of living and extinct species, to the depth of 120 feet, at Canical and at Porto Santo. Sir Charles also remarked on the relative values of the "elevation" and "eruption" theories, as applied to the interpretation of the volcanic phenomena seen in Madeira. The little island of Baxo, Sir Charles describes as being a small coral-reef in the midst of volcanic tuff, lava, and scoriae of submarine origin. Sir C. Lyell was accompanied from England by Mr. C. Bunbury, F.G.S., a note from whom, descriptive of the fossil plants above mentioned, was also read at the meeting; and in his excursions about Madeira and Porto Santo, Sir Charles was favoured by the company of M. Hartung, a German naturalist resident at Funchal. Sir Charles is now at Teneriffe, engaged in the investigation of the Canary Islands.

2. 'On Fish Remains in Chalk-flint.' By Capt.

Alexander, in a letter to the Secretary of the Geological Society. In presenting the Society with a set of specimens of chalk-flints containing scales and bones of fish, Capt. Alexander mentioned that his attention was first drawn to the existence of these remains in flint by Mr. Rose, of Swaffham, and that after a careful examination, in company with Mr. Amyot, of the flints about Diss, in Norfolk, particularly of the flints collected from the fields, he calculated that about one flint in fifty yielded fragments of fossil fish. In some instances the tail, fins, and even a jaw with teeth have been found. 3. 'On the Excavation of some Valleys in Yorkshire.' By H. C. Sorby, Esq., F.G.S. Mr. Sorby, after minutely describing the character of the valleys that run down from the eastern moorlands of Yorkshire into the vale of Pickering, as ravine-shaped valleys, cut sharply out, with the sides inclined at an angle of 30°, observed that, at first sight, these valleys may appear to have been produced by the action of the streams now running in them, continued for a long period. But in the case of the Yedmandale, to which this communication particularly referred, the peculiar character of the floor of the valley, the distribution of the detritus in that part not occupied by any stream, and the modified character and partial removal of the detritus where streams do exist, were shown to clearly prove that these valleys are due to an aqueous agency which is not now in action in this locality. In the author's opinion, a strong marine current from the north, when the district was below the sea, probably during the glacial period, would best account for the configuration of the valleys in question, and for the arrangement of the gravel now partially occupying their floors.

NUMISMATIC.—March 23rd.—E. Hawkins, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. Vaux read a paper 'On the Monetary System of Tibet, as Illustrated by the Existing Coins of that Country.' The paper was mainly due to a report furnished to Mr. Vaux by Capt. Henry Strachey, H.E.I.S., when purchasing, for the British Museum, some months since, a collection of coins of Tibet and the adjoining countries, made by that gentleman during his residence at Ladak. It appears that the Tibetans have united the coinage of India with the bullion of China, and, from the extensive use of bad money, that it has come to pass, that the Chinese ingots of silver are at present the only real standard which may be entirely relied on for permanence, uniformity, and purity of metal. These ingots, which have various names, are imported from Yarkend, to which place they are brought from Khatay or Northern China. They are made of a sort of boat shape, the cavity being partly filled up solid (as though poured in after the shell had been first made), so that they can be piled up with the bottom of one fitting into the rim of another. They are stamped on the inside with Chinese characters, and are of nearly pure metal. As they are liable to be clipped, the merchants generally test them by weighing in a small steelyard. The government of Ladak has had a silver currency of its own for the last 250 years; the earliest coins are of nearly pure silver—probably that of the Chinese ingots—and are stamped with barbarous imitation of the Persian name of Mahmud Khan, who ruled in Tibetastan about A.D. 1667: other names, as that of Shah Jahan of Dehli, are sometimes met with. Of late years the coinage has been much debased, chiefly by the agents of Maharajah Gholab Singh, in 1847. The only difference in the form of the coin was the substitution of the name of Gholab Singh, with a representation of the *Kathar* or Indian dagger, for the former letters, the workmanship being hardly superior to that of the older money. There is no native copper coinage in Ladak, and for want of it, small payments are usually made by handfuls of meal, tea, &c. Indian money is not, to any great extent, imported in Ladak. The Turkish races of Bokhara and Khokend have a coinage of their own, but the only part of this which reaches Ladak is the gold

*Tillah*, imported by way of Yarkend. These coins bear the names and titles of Khans of Bokhara and Khokend, with the date and place of mintage, and are, when well preserved, very beautiful specimens of oriental metallic art. Like all other gold, however, in Ladak, the Turkish coins are used as merchandise and not as money. Mr. Evans read a paper 'On the Mode adopted by the Ancient Celtic Population of England in casting certain Tin Coins, which remain of their Times.' Mr. Chaffers, in a letter to J. B. Bergne, Esq., drew attention to a very curious and unique siege-piece, struck in Pontefract Castle, during its siege by the rebels. Its peculiarity is its size, which made it doubtful whether it was intended for a two-shilling or a half-crown piece. Mr. C. R. Smith exhibited a medal in lead, struck in commemoration of the escape of King Charles the Second from the battle of Worcester; and Mr. Williams, an original set of impressions from Dassier's medals, illustrative of Roman History.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—March 29th.—The Earl of Harrowby in the chair. A paper was read 'On the Importance of a Correct System of Agricultural Statistics,' by Mr. Leone Levi. The author commenced by stating, that as the arable and garden land of the United Kingdom was only about twenty millions of acres, and the meadows, pastures, and marshes twenty-seven millions, and as the number of farmers in Great Britain did not actually exceed 300,000, there ought to be no difficulty in collecting agricultural returns. The vast extent of Russia, with half the land comparatively raw and unapproachable, might render such a scheme impracticable there, and in the United States, from the fact of a large portion of that country having but recently been redeemed from its wild state, it might also be impossible. But in Great Britain the case was very different; and it had been found that by the individual efforts of large cornfactors, as, for instance, of Mr. Sandars and of Mr. Hodgson, of Liverpool, pretty accurate returns had been obtained by sending individuals into different parts of the country whilst the grain was yet in the ear, and selecting a square yard as a sample from which to estimate the probable yield. The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland had obtained returns of the number of acres under different kinds of crops—the amount of stock, the amount of steam, water, and horse-power employed in agriculture—and an estimate of the produce of the crops for the counties of Roxburgh, Haddington, and Sutherland. Similar statistics had also been obtained for the counties of Norfolk and Hampshire through the instrumentality of the Poor Law Board. In Ireland two returns had been obtained, which gave the number of holdings, the extent of land under crop, an estimate of the quantity of produce by counties and by Poor Law Unions, the rate of produce, the classification of crops, the breadth of flax cultivated in each county, and the number of stock of all descriptions. These statistics were, however, rendered useless, from the fact that they were not published till after the supplies to which they referred had been eaten up, that therefore they did not subserve to any practical end. By a correct system of agricultural statistics we should arrive at a true appreciation of the value of the application of chemistry to the cultivation of the soil, we should possess an early estimate of the quantity of grain likely to be required from foreign countries, and thus be enabled to supply the deficiency at a cheaper rate than if we waited later, till the want was more apparent. The practical bearing of such statistics was proved by the fact, that of the quantity of corn actually sold in the United Kingdom a simple oscillation of one shilling per quarter would make a difference of about two millions sterling. What was wanted was, first, how many acres of land were sown with each kind of crop, and secondly, the probable yield, and this sufficiently early to govern the markets, to check alarm, and to give timely warning of impending wants. The former would be easier ascertained than the latter,

and in both there might be some degree of loss. The returns of the number of acres under crop might be collected early in spring, and by extensive meteorological observations the progress of vegetation might be calculated at various intervals. The estimate of produce should be obtained within one month at least after the harvest. The statistical congress at Brussels had confined its recommendations on this head to decennial statistics, which should embrace complete information as to the condition and results of agricultural industry. Such statistics might be important for the purposes of taxation, and for showing the progress of agricultural science, but the annual estimate was the most essential, and was the great practical object aimed at by the advocates of agricultural statistics in this country. The author then examined the machinery at our command for the purpose of obtaining these statistics, stating in the outset that he believed it was a task which it behoved the government to undertake by the best means at their command. He considered that the statistical department of the Board of Trade should be so expanded and re-constructed as to undertake this important duty, and that the same plan might be pursued for the collection of agricultural statistics as for the statistics of population.

METEOROLOGICAL.—March 28th.—S. C. Whitbread, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. Arthur Forbes, Esq., Charles B. W. Pearson, Esq., W. Squire, Esq., and W. C. Lake, Esq., were balloted for and elected Members. The following communications were read. 'On Medical Meteorology and Atmospheric Ozone,' by Dr. Moffat. Since the discovery of Ozone, in April, 1848, the subject has engaged the author's constant attention; from tables formed from the observations of four years, from 1850 to 1853, he seeks to establish a connexion between atmospheric ozone and the meteorological conditions of the atmosphere, together with the prevalence of disease and mortality. The chief conclusions at which Dr. Moffat arrives are, 1stly. That ozone periods always commence with decreasing readings of the barometer and increase of temperature, and terminate with increasing readings of the barometer and decrease of temperature. 2ndly. That as ozone periods commence very frequently with the wind in the south-east, and terminate in the north-west, those points adjacent to the south-east he calls their points of commencement, and those adjacent to the north-west, those of their termination. 3rdly. That ozone and cirri always accompany each other, and would appear to be peculiar to the south or equinoctial current. The author therefore designates the south points of the compass as those of ozone and cirri, and the north or polar points, those of no ozone and no cirri. 4thly. That snow and thunderstorms take place generally in the south-east points, and during calms; whilst hail and aurora are peculiar to the north-west points. 5thly. That the maximum of disease occurs with the wind in the south points, and the maximum of mortality when in the north points. 6thly. That some diseases are peculiar to certain directions of the wind. 7thly. That apoplexy, epilepsy, paralysis, and sudden death, are very common during hail and snow showers, and when the wind is in the points at which these phenomena generally occur—viz., the north-west and south-east. 8thly. That ozone is in greater quantity on the west coast than in inland districts. The author concludes by stating that owing to the action of light, and the influence of atmospheric currents in producing decomposition of the iodide of potassium, it is necessary, in order to secure uniformity of results, to place the test papers in darkness, and to keep them protected from atmospheric currents. 'Meteoro logical Report for 1852' by Charles Smallwood, Esq., M.D., Lower Canada. Lat. 45°32' north, Long. 73°36' west. The highest reading of the barometer during the year was 30-329 inches, and it took place in December, the lowest reading occurred in June, and was 28-727 inches. The mean temperature of the

quarterly periods were, winter 16° 4'; spring 37° 1', summer 68° 8', and autumn 45° 9'. The yearly mean was 42° 9', and the yearly range was as large as 128° 5'. The mean humidity of the atmosphere in winter was 781, in spring 806, in summer 810, in autumn 895. The yearly mean was 823; rain fell on 88 days, amounting to 47.131 inches, and was accompanied by thunder and lightning on 17 days. The most prevalent wind during the year was the west, and the least prevalent the north by west. The mean of the maximum velocity was 17.632 miles per hour, and the mean of the minimum velocity was 0.463 miles per hour. A slight shock of an earthquake was felt on the morning of the 11th of February, 1852. To the tables are appended a series of ozonometer observations taken daily, the ozone papers being prepared with the iodide of potassium and starch, suspended in the shade and sheltered from the influence of the sun and rain. The author remarks, that as a general law the amount of ozone is small, whenever the electrical state of the atmosphere indicates high tension, and *vice versa*. In conclusion, Dr. Smallwood expresses a hope that he will shortly be enabled to lay before the Society the results of a series of experiments he is now making with the view of ascertaining the nature and amount of connexion he believes existent between the compound forms of snow crystals and the electrical conditions of the atmosphere, whether negative or positive, under which they are formed. A paper was read showing the mean annual temperature for 9 years, from 1845 to 1853, by Alexander Brown, Esq., Arbroath. The average of the monthly means are as follows:—Jan. 36° 2'; Feb. 37° 1'; March 39° 3'; April 43° 0'; May 48° 7'; June 53° 5'; July 57° 9'; Aug. 56° 4'; Sept. 52° 4'; Oct. 46° 0'; Nov. 40° 2'; and Dec. 36° 9'. The mean annual temperature 45° 6'.

**LINNEAN.**—March 21st.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. F. D. Dyster, Esq., M.D., and J. T. Syme, Esq., were elected Fellows. Daniel Oliver, jun., Esq., F.L.S., presented specimens of about sixty species and varieties of British and Scandinavian *Hieracia*, many of them received from Prof. Blytt, of Christiania. Dr. Alexander, F.L.S., presented a flowering specimen of *Spathelia simplex*, Macfad., (not of Lamarck), from Moneague, Jamaica. N. B. Ward, Esq., F.L.S., exhibited living specimens, grown in a closed case from mould taken from its native habitat in the Island of Jersey, in September, 1853. This plant, like the *Trichomanes*, attains a much greater degree of luxuriance in a closed case than in its native soil. J. O. Westwood, Esq., F.L.S., exhibited a small collection of Insects of different orders, collected at Darjeeling and other parts of India, by Capt. Slater, of the Bengal army; amongst them were a rare species of *Pausides*, *Junnos Ruckeri*, *Bombyx Huttoni*, (the moth which produces the new kind of Indian silk.) *Epicepera* sp. (a moth having all the appearance of a species of *Papilio*), an apparently new species of *Papilio*, resembling the genus *Euplaza*, &c. S. Stevens, Esq., F.L.S., exhibited the leaf of a new species of *Nepenthes* from the Seychelles Islands, collected by Mr. R. W. Plant, on which Dr. Hooker made some observations. Read a paper 'On the genus *Myrmica* and other indigenous Ants,' by John Curtis, Esq., F.L.S. The author, having been enabled to clear up some doubts by comparing the species of *Myrmica* in his own cabinet with the collection in the British Museum, containing typical specimens presented by M. Nylander, (author of the 'Adnotations in Monogr. Formicarum Borealium Europei') proposed, in the present paper, to describe and figure some English *Myrmicas* which are either new, or so little known, that it appears impossible to identify the species, trusting that the figures which accompany his paper, will at all events render some species no longer doubtful. He proposed to divide the British *Formicidae* as follows:—A. With a single scale upon the petiole (of the abdomen). 1. Palpi, 6- and 4-jointed. a. Mandibles of female

elongated: 1. *Formica*, Latr.; b. Mandibles of female triangular: 2. *Ponera*, Latr. B. With two nodules on the petiole; superior wings with the apical cell elongate and open. Palpi, 6- and 4-jointed: *Myranica*, Latr. Palpi, 4- and 3-jointed: *Stenamma*, Westw. Superior wings with the terminal cell closed, oval and pedicled: *Myrmecina*, Curtis. The species noticed were—1. *Myrmica rubra*, L.; 2. *M. lewinodis*, Nyl.; 3. *M. vagans*, Fabr.; 4. *M. longiscapus*, Curt.; 5. *M. perelegans*, Curt.; 6. *M. Acervorum*, Fabr.; 7. *M. denticornis*, Curt.; 8. *M. caspium*, L.; 9. *M. tuberum*, Fabr.; 10. *M. simillima*, Nyl.; 11. *M. graminicola*, Lat.; 12. *M. unifasciata*, Lat.; 13. *M. domestica*, Shuck; 14. *Stenamma Westwoodii*, Steph.; 15. *S. albipennis*, Curt.; 16. *Myrmecina Latreillii*, Curt. Read also, 'Some Notes on the Habits of the Common Garden Ant' (*Formica nigra*, L.), by George Daniell, Esq.; communicated by the Secretary. Mr. Daniell's residence at Chobham is greatly infested by this very pugnacious ant, which is much larger and more robust than *Myrmica domestica*. Stragglers appear in the greenhouse about the middle of February, and as the weather becomes warmer, increasing in numbers and spreading over the whole garden. In fine weather they spread their white pupae in little heaps in the sun, sometimes forming their dwellings in the bottom of a flower-pot; and as summer advances, extend their colonies into the meadows, forming small round hillocks among the grass. They attack flies, gnats, and even bees. Mr. D.'s vines having been attacked last year by the scale (*Coccus Vitis Vinifera*), thousands of these ants clustered upon them, apparently feeding on the black excrement voided by the *Coccus*. They likewise seemed to feed in the same manner around the green *Aphides*. In addition to the stores of food thus obtained, these marauders carried off not merely the cast skins of the *Aphides*, but even the insects themselves. Having noticed the ants running rapidly to and fro in the spaces between the pots placed on the flue of his stove, Mr. D. turned his attention to the ants which were above, in the foliage of the plants; and ascertained that while some were feeding, others were evidently striving to dislodge an *Aphis* from its shelter among the leaves of the calceolarias, &c. On his shaking down some of the *Aphides*, they were immediately assailed by the ants below, who appeared first to break the legs and strip off the wings of their victims, which they afterwards carried off. In June, winged female ants are seen, but they do not appear to fly much.

**STATISTICAL SOCIETY.**—March 20th.—At the last Ordinary Meeting of the Statistical Society, held at the Rooms of the Society in St. James's Square, Sir John Boileau, Bart., F.R.S., in the chair, Dr. Guy read a Paper 'On the Relation of the Price of Wheat to the Revenue derived from Customs and Excise duties,' in continuation of other papers on the subject of finance. The paper abounded in tabular comparisons, which our space will not allow us to transcribe; but we give the conclusions at which the author arrived:—1. The influence of the price of wheat on the revenue, derived from customs and excise duties is not such as to establish a very close and uniform relation between the one and the other; for equal prices of wheat do not coincide with equal amounts of revenue, nor equal amounts of revenue with equal prices of wheat; while cycles of years of rising and falling prices are found to correspond with diminishing and increasing amounts of revenue indifferently; and even those numerical results which seem to indicate the closest relation between the price of wheat and the yield of customs and excise duties, display exceptions and irregularities which tend to impair the evidence they afford. 2. The influence of the price of wheat on the revenue from customs and excise is much less considerable than the influence of the price of wheat on the net ordinary revenue of which the customs and excise duties constitute so considerable a part; for while, in five out of six

instances, the net ordinary revenue in groups of years of low prices exceeded the net ordinary revenue in similar groups of years of high prices, in no less than four out of the same six instances the yield of the customs and excise duties was higher in the groups of dear years than in the corresponding groups of cheap years. Again, when the years following high and low prices are substituted for the years in which those prices respectively occur, and groups of years following dear years are compared with groups of years following cheap years, though there is uniformly an excess in groups of cheap years over groups of dear years, that excess is always proportionately much less in the case of the customs and excise duties than in the case of the net ordinary revenue; and other numerical comparisons lead to similar results. 3. When the amount of the revenue derived from customs and excise duties in different years is subjected to the necessary correction of taxes imposed or remitted, and the years of successful and unsuccessful financial operations are compared with the price of wheat, the results are found to be more in harmony with those obtained in the case of the net ordinary revenue, though the irregularities are such as to confirm the principle just laid down in the first proposition, that there is no close or uniform relation between the price of wheat and the revenue from customs and excise. 4. If the relation proved to exist between the price of wheat and the revenue from customs and excise in the year following may be safely assumed to be the true relation, then the measure of that relation would be, in round numbers, 1841 to 24,053, of customs and excise duties for every rise or fall of one shilling in the price of wheat, the relation between the price of wheat and the net ordinary revenue in the year following being measured by the much more considerable amount of from 42,746 to 114,943. The paper was illustrated by a series of elaborate tables, and led to a long and animated discussion, in which Viscount Ebrington, The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, and the Chairman bore part. The Meeting was then adjourned to the 10th April proximo.

**BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—March 22nd.—S. R. Solly, F.R.S., F.S.A., V.P., in the chair. W. Douglas Bennett, Esq., of Guilford-road, South Lambeth, was admitted an Associate. The Rev. Mr. Hugo presented to the Society a collection of various fragments of pottery, &c., obtained in excavations made in the city of London, to be deposited with other specimens already in the possession of the Association. Mr. O'Connor exhibited a dagger of the close of the seventeenth century, which, though somewhat resembling the old hunting-knives in form, was considered to be a *Cultellum*, employed as a guard in fighting with the sword. The blade is about a foot in length, sharp on one edge; the back broad at the upper part, but turning sharp towards the point. On both sides are stamped the Prussian eagle holding the sceptre and orb, and the word PÖTZDAM. The horn hilt and brass cross-guard appeared to have originally belonged to another weapon. In the Meyrick collection is an anelace from the same manufactory, having on it the words, "Regent: Printz Carl, Potsdam. F.W.R." Capt. Tupper exhibited a fine, though very small specimen of Roman key, found at Freshford, near Bath. The Rev. E. Kell forwarded a communication from B. Barrow, Esq., giving an account of the examination of some ancient British tumuli in the Isle of Wight, together with drawings of the vases and dagger found within them. Mr. Pettigrew laid before the Association a silver reliquary which had been exhibited on a former occasion, when the history given of it was considered to be doubtful. It was now clearly shown to have no pretensions whatever to the antiquity which had been assigned to it, and from another in the possession of the Rev. D. Haigh, proved to be one of a class not uncommon, and of Jesuit origin, owing their formation to the missionary priests, chiefly Jesuits, who

were continually finding their way into this country, at the risk of their lives, to look after the scattered Catholics during the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., so that this reliquary cannot be but of the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century. The device on these reliquaries is a scroll forming the letter S, and a trail forming a J—“Societas Jesu.” Mr. Baigent forwarded a drawing from a coffin-shaped slab, interesting as the monumental memorial of the builder of the church of Woolhampton, near Newbury. The inscription is in Lombardic characters round the edge, and reads—*HIC : JACET : RICARDVS : DE : HERCLOND : RECTOR : HVJV : LOCI : CONDITOR : CANCELLI*. These letters were in brass, but all that now exist are the sunken cavities or matrices of the letters. From the architectural character of the chancel this slab cannot be of later date than 1250. A second and very elaborate paper, by Mr. Baigent, was read, ‘On the discovery of Mural paintings in St. John’s, at Winchester.’ They represented the murder of Thomas Becket, and are of a very finished character, and will be given in colours in the next number of the *Journal of the Association*. The meeting was adjourned to the 12th of April, the eleventh anniversary of the Association, when the officers and council for the year 1854-5 will be elected.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—*March 27th.*—Sir R. I. Murchison, V.-P., in the chair. Lieut. Creswell, R.N., John W. Church, J. G. Dodson, and Bacon Phillips, Esqrs., were elected Fellows. The Chairman announced that her Majesty’s Government had granted the sum of 500/- per annum to enable the Society to provide itself with apartments adequate to a public exposition of its numerous charts and maps, and thus increase the usefulness of the body. Having read the official letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan to the President, the Earl of Ellesmere, the Chairman adverted to the long period during which the Society had in vain appealed to successive governments to attain this boon, and reminded the Fellows of the words he had employed in his farewell address of last year, wherein he confidently predicted this result, for the double reason—that their case was energetically espoused by Mr. Hume, who, although the leader of British economists, was always bountiful on national occasions; and that the present Premier, one of their earliest fellows, and so many years the President of an affiliated body, had evinced a warm desire to aid them. Sir Roderick then moved that the thanks of the Society be given to the Earl of Aberdeen and her Majesty’s Government for this grant, and the motion having been seconded by Sir Woodbine Parish was carried unanimously. The Chairman next read a letter from Dr. Barth to Dr. Beke, F.R.G.S., dated Timbuctu,\* 5th and 29th of September, the latitude and longitude of which place Dr. Barth gives differently from Major Laing, Mr. Arrowsmith, and others. Colonel Lloyd, her Majesty’s chargé-d’affaires in Bolivia, then gave an account of his method of rapid field surveying, as practised in his recent ascent of the Andes, and afterwards explained what he meant by the reported failure of the Darien Expedition, referring to the information he had obtained from Captain Prevost, who had so unsuccessfully attempted the passage from the side of the Pacific, and who had met with high rocky grounds, cataracts, and unexpected difficulties. A discussion having arisen, in which Mr. W. Hamilton observed that the parties most interested in the success of a Darien canal had received information, that in proceeding from the Atlantic side no very great obstacles had been encountered by the explorers, the further consideration of the subject was deferred until final and more accurate reports be obtained. Lastly, a memoir was read by Baron de Bode, ‘On the Steppes

of the Turkomans to the south-east of the Caspian Sea,’ in which the author gave a valuable sketch of the wild tracts watered by the rivers; including their early history, antiquities, natural productions, and the present routes through them, as verified by his personal observations.

**ANTIQUARIES.**—*March 30th.*—J. P. Collier, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. G. R. Dodd was elected a Fellow. Mr. Morgan, M.P., exhibited a curious Chinese enamelled bowl, and also a mall or mallet, used in playing the obsolete game which gave the name to a well-known London locality, Pall-Mall. The Rev. Mr. Hugo exhibited a bronze armilla found in Bucklersbury. Dr. Guest communicated an account of a fresco discovered in Carlisle Cathedral, supposed to represent an incident in the Life of Saint Cuthbert. Mr. McIntosh exhibited a piece of the plaid worn by the young Pretender at Culloden, and also a memorial ring of Charles the First, with a portrait of the king in enamel. Mr. B. Williams read some remarks in addition to a former communication, on the Hide of Land, and on an ancient Custumal observed in Oxfordshire. The Vice-President, in the chair, presented a number of curious broadsides, as a contribution to the Society’s already very curious collection. The woodcuts with which some of these were embellished are considerably older than the time when they were printed, having been handed down from time to time, and sometimes used with comparatively modern types.

**R. S. OF LITERATURE.**—*March 22nd.*—Sir John Doratt, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. Vaux read a paper communicated by Mr. Hogg, ‘On two events that occurred in the Life of King Canute the Dane.’ The events were the battle which was fought by King Olaf with his Norwegian subjects who had revolted, to which English historians have hitherto assigned an incorrect date; and the single combat which is said to have taken place between Edmund Ironside and Canute, and which led to the division of England, a few weeks subsequently, between those monarchs. Mr. Hogg demonstrated, from a careful examination of the different authorities, that the date of the first event had been placed in A.D. 1028, 1029, 1030, respectively, but that the last is the correct one—being established by the researches of Professor Harsteen of Christiania, who has shown that Olaf’s defeat and an eclipse took place on the same day. The second event Mr. Hogg has proved to have been in reality an instance of the ancient Scandinavian *Holm-gang*, that is, a duel fought upon an island, and that this combat took place on the island of Ahey or Olney, a small tract formed by the separation of the stream of the Severn into two channels, on the north-west side of the city of Gloucester. Edward Buller, Esq., and J. G. MacWalter, Esq., B.A., were duly elected Members of the Society.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

**Monday.**—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(1. Account of an Expedition to the Sources of the Amazon, by Lieut.-Col. Lloyd, H.B.M.’s Chargé d’Affaires in Bolivia; 2. Variation of the Magnetic Needle at Aden, by Capt. S. B. Haines, I. Navy; 3. Physical Geography of the Red Sea, by Dr. G. Buit, F.R.G.S.)

— Statistical, 8 p.m.—(On the Movement of the Population, Mortality, and Fatal Diseases in London in the last 14 years, by John Angus, Esq.)

— Medical, 8 p.m.—(Physiological Meeting.)

**Tuesday.**—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ p.m.—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Discussion on the papers by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Williams, on the Management of Engine and other Furnaces, and the Prevention of Smoke.)

— Zoological, 9 p.m.

— Syro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.—(On the Intellectual Character and Habits of the Arabians as for the most part displayed in the Makamat of Al Hariri of Basra, by Dr. W. Camps.)

**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Dr. J. Forbes Royle, F.R.S., on Indian Fibres.)

— Graphic, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday.**—Pharmaceutical, 8½ p.m.,

— Ethnological, 8½ p.m.—(1. Adjourned discussion on Mr. Kennedy’s paper on the Origin of the American Indians; 2. Ethnological Researches made in a Journey through the Hindu Alps in 1853, by Dr. William Freund.)

— Literary Fund, 3 p.m.

— R. S. Literature, 8½ p.m.

— Archaeological, 4 p.m.—(Annual General Meeting, Election of Officers and Council, Notices of Members deceased, by Mr. Pettigrew.)

**Saturday.**—Medical, 8 p.m.

— Royal Botanic, 4 p.m.

#### VARIETIES.

**John Kemble.**—John Kemble was convivial in his habits, fond of late hours, and a humorist after a peculiar fashion. But his jokes were somewhat sepulchral; and even when under the influence of Bacchus, he never relaxed from his habitual solemnity and importance of manner. When a young actor, he fancied, by a strange delusion, that he possessed the attributes of gay, dashing comedy. Tate Wilkinson tells us that he selected Plume, Doricourt, Archer, and such parts, to please himself, and not by the desire of the managers. A smile on his countenance appeared to wonder how it got there. As Croker says, in the ‘Familiar Epistles,’ it resembled the plating on a coffin. He then observed—

“Young Mirabel by Kemble play’d  
Look’d like Macbeth in masquerade.”

and adds, in a note, “I have had the misfortune to see this exhibition; truly it was, as Shakespeare says, ‘most tragical mirth.’” Reynolds tells an amusing anecdote, for which he quotes the authority of Kemble himself. In 1791, the great tragedian chose to act Charles Surface. Some time afterwards Reynolds and Kemble met at a dinner. The flattering host asserted that Charles Surface had been lost to the stage since the days of Smith, and added, that Kemble’s performance of the part should be considered as Charles’s Restoration. On this a less complimentary guest observed, in an under tone, that it should rather be considered as Charles’s Martyrdom. Kemble overheard the remark, and said, with much good humour, “I will tell you a story about this, which proves that you are right. Some few months ago I happened to be in liquor, and quarrelled with a gentleman in the street. On the next morning, when I came to my senses, I felt that I was in the wrong, and offered to make him any reasonable reparation. ‘Sir,’ interrupted the gentleman, ‘at once I meet your proposal, and name one—promise me never to play Charles Surface again, and I shall be perfectly satisfied.’ I gave the promise, and have kept it.”—*Dublin University Magazine*.

**Honorary Initials.**—“As a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of some years’ standing, I beg to call your attention to the now very common, and to give it its true name, fraudulent use of the letters F.S.A. I have at this time lying before me the prospectus of a provincial Archaeological Society, in which I find the name of a person who is designated F.S.A., but who does not appear in the list of Fellows annually printed by the Society; while at this moment large placards face us in the streets on which certain individuals are described as F.S.A., although I have looked in vain for their names in such lists.”

“F.S.A.”

**Strange Meteor.**—Accounts have reached us of a very remarkable meteor, which passed over a large tract of country about Eichweiller, on Sunday, the 19th instant, at 10 o’clock P.M.; it consisted of an oval ball of bright fire, of which, according to the calculation of Dr. Forster, who had examined the various accounts, the major was to the minor axis as about 17 to 30. The ball of fire left sparks behind. The air was so vastly illuminated by this phenomenon, that people could for a few seconds read the print of an ordinary newspaper. At the same time a highly electric state of the atmosphere was noticed at Brussels.—*Brussels Herald*.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. H. R. received.

\* This place was passed by Mungo Park in his adventurous voyage down the Niger; visited in 1826 by the unfortunate Laing, who resided there two months, and was assassinated on his homeward route through the desert, and since visited and described by the enterprising Frenchman, Caillié.—*Ed.*

# NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

In order to remove any erroneous impression that may be formed of the circulation of the *LITERARY GAZETTE*, from the return of Newspaper Stamps just published, the Proprietor deems it necessary to explain—firstly, that Stamps are only required for a portion of the circulation; and secondly, that the legitimate stamped circulation is *not* diminished, *but rather increased*. The published return is as follows:

1851.	1852.	1853.
43,500	31,250	25,900

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It is obvious that we avail ourselves, as much as it is possible to do, of the facilities presented for conveying the paper to subscribers *at the unstamped price*; and it is most unjust to publish the Stamp Returns of *literary* papers along with *news*-papers, without a mark to denote that, in the case of literary papers, the returns only represent a *limited portion* of the circulation—a portion *which it is the interest of the proprietor to diminish*. We never allow our Paper to be sent folded up through the post, when it can be delivered through the bookseller or newsvender in better condition at a less price.

Stamps issued in 1851	43,500
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Stamps issued in 1852	31,250
Given to Country Newspaper Proprietors	6,500
	24,750
	<i>Stamped Circulation in 1852, 24,750</i>
Stamped Circulation in 1853	25,900
<i>Increase over 1851</i>	900
<i>    , over 1852</i>	1150

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20	9 18 2	9 19 2	1 0 3	1 1 5	1 2 8	1 18 3
30	1 3 9	1 5 2	1 6 8	1 8 4	1 10 0	2 10 5
40	1 11 10	1 12 9	1 15 10	1 18 1	2 0 6	3 8 3

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